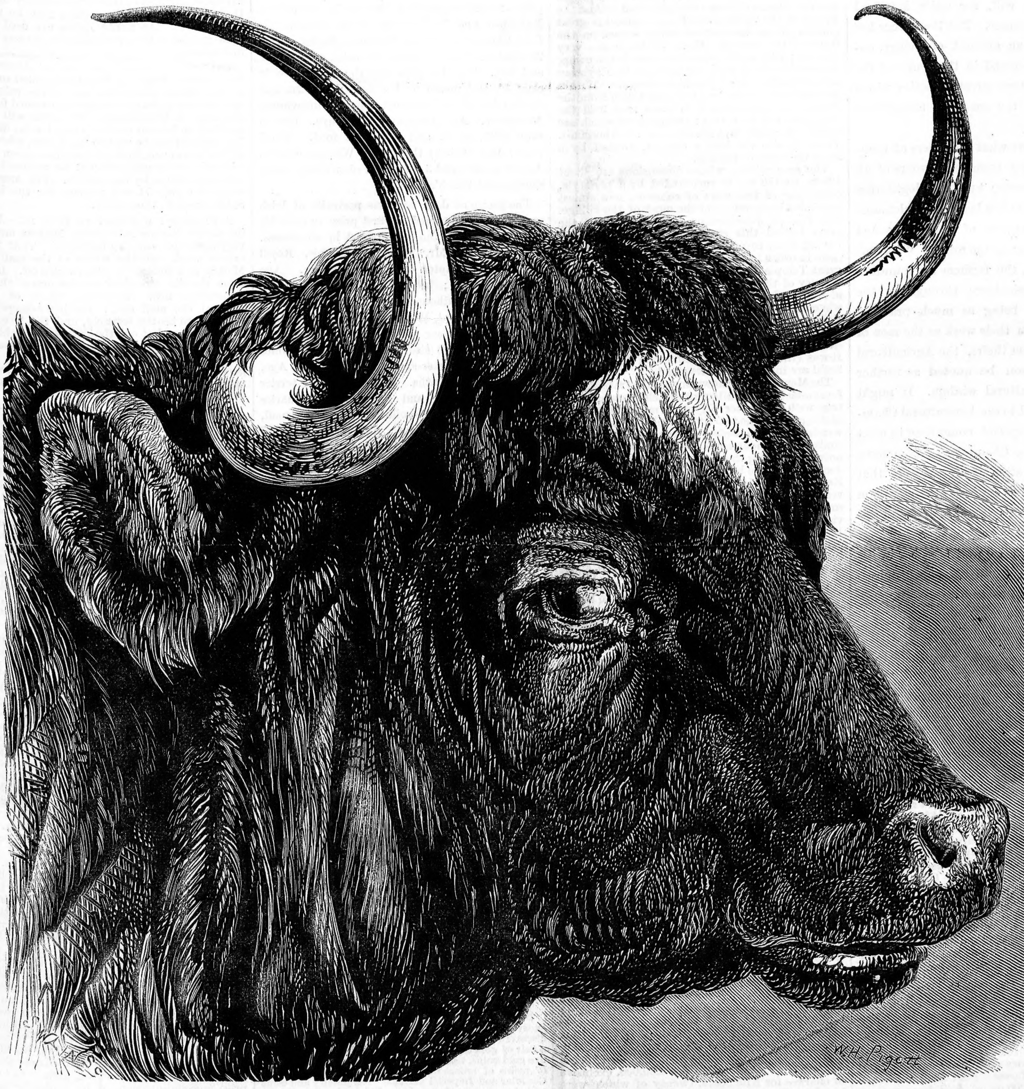
THE ILLUSTRATED
MIDLAND NEWS.
LEIGHTON. DEL.
SWAIN SC.

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE
FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

PUBLISHED AT 108, NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM.
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, 17s. 6d. POST FREE.

No. 15.—Vol. I. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1869. Threepence.



BIRMINGHAM CATTLE SHOW: Captain Gunter's West Highland Prize Ox. *(See page 234)*.

FARMERS' SOCIETIES.

It never seems to have occurred to the farmers' friends in the Press, when the agricultural classes have been attacked on the score of lethargy, to point out what special energy has really been exhibited by the farmer with regard to his own business. Until lately he was constantly held up to scorn for his want of knowledge in the matter of politics. John Bright advised him not to dabble in figures. Townsmen have laughed at him as a slow plodding fellow with no go in him; and we are bound to admit that some of this censure was justifiable. What surprises us just now is that the champions of the Plough and the particular admirers of "the sons of the soil" have never turned round and pointed to the Farmer's Societies as proofs of his energy and wisdom, as examples of his skill and industry in the establishment of associations equal to those of any other industrial class. Scientific men can boast of their British Association, professed philanthropists of their Congresses, painters of their Academy exhibition, commercial men of their Chambers of Commerce. In what respect is the farmer behind these? Look at his Royal Agricultural Society; look at his County Agricultural Societies; look at his Clubs; look at his Birmingham Cattle Show; look at his exhibition at Smithfield. It is true that in these large societies the manufacturer and the trader have gone hand-in-hand with the farmer, as we hope they always will, for unity is indeed strength in this instance. But the farmer has given evidence of an amount of energy, endurance, and self-denial in the course of the establishment of these great societies which may fully answer the sneers of thoughtless critics.

Everybody knows what Chambers of Commerce have done for trade and traders of all kinds. Their influence upon the legislation of the past few years has been of incalculable value. The committee of the Associated Chambers is a power in the State. With this lesson before them, the farmers are founding Chambers of Agriculture throughout the country. If they bring as much practical ability to bear upon their work as the men of commerce have upon theirs, the Agricultural Chambers may soon be quoted as further examples of agricultural wisdom. It might be highly beneficial to the Agricultural Chambers if they had a special committee to meet a like body from the Chambers of Commerce for mutual consultation upon subjects that affect towns as well as country districts, upon legislative propositions that are of equal importance to the farmer and the manufacturer. Both having worked so well together in the management of the Cattle Show at Birmingham could not fail to unite with advantage in connection with Imperial affairs.

At the Bristol Police Court, on Saturday, three young men, lately employed at the cotton mill in that city, were committed to prison for two months for assaulting one of the hands who chose to submit to the recent reduction of wages.

Australasian Gold.—The value of the Australasian gold imported into the United Kingdom in October was £613,487, as compared with £791,207 in 1868, and £904,741 in October 1867; and in the ten months ending October 31, this year, £8,556,436, as compared with £6,027,936 in the corresponding period of 1868, and £4,768,711 in the corresponding period of 1867. Quartz mining is exciting more and more attention in New South Wales, and reefs are being opened up in the colony in almost every direction—north, south, and west. Some rich reefs are reported to have been opened near the Old Major's Creek's gold field. On the Little River in the Braidwood district there has been a rich find of gold in the Homeward Bound claim on the Mosquito Reef; and it is now considered that the first plateau from the table land on the east coast of Australia from Bemgoria southward to the boundary of New South Wales is auriferous and more or less intersected by gold-bearing quartz reef. The total quantity of gold exported from Victoria to October 11, this year, was 1,271,200 oz., of which 180,159 oz. were transhipped from New Zealand. In the corresponding period of 1868 the entire quantity exported was 1,551,213 oz., and of this total 183,644 oz. were from New Zealand. Satisfactory intelligence has been received from the Barossa gold field in South Australia. About 2,200 oz. of gold from various South Australian diggings were exhibited in Adelaide in the first week of October.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

Continuing our Illustrations of scenes connected with the Suez Canal, we give this week three engravings—one depicting the arrival of the Empress of the French at Luxor, another the caravans passing before the Colossus of Memnon, and the third a performance by dancing girls. Luxor or Luksor (called by the ancient Egyptians "Southern Tapé"), which occupies part of the site of ancient Diospolis, still holds the rank of a market town. Its name Luksor, or El Kosóor, signifies "the palaces," from the temple there erected by Amunoph III. and Remeses II. The former monarch built the original sanctuary and the adjoining chambers, with the addition of the large colonnade and the pylon before it, to which Remeses II. afterwards added the great court, the pyramidal tower, and the obelisks and statues. These, though last in order of antiquity, necessarily form the present commencement of the temple, which, like many others belonging to different epochs, is not "two separate edifices" but one and the same building. A dromos, connecting it with Karnak, extended in front of the two beautiful obelisks of red granite, whose four sides are covered with a profusion of hieroglyphics, no less admirable for the style of their execution than for the depth to which they are cut, which in many instances exceeds two inches. The faces of the obelisks, particularly those which are opposite each other, are remarkable for a slight convexity of their centres, which appears to have been introduced to obviate the shadow thrown by the sun, even when on a line with a plane surface.

The westernmost of these obelisks has been removed by the French, and is the one now in the Place de la Concorde at Paris. Being at Luxor when it was taken down, I (continues the "Murray" writer) observed beneath the lower end on which it stood the nomen and prenomen of Remeses II., and a slight fissure extending some distance up it; and what is very remarkable, the obelisk was cracked previous to its erection and was secured by two wooden dove-tail cramps. These, however, were destroyed by the moisture of the ground in which the base had become accidentally buried. Behind the obelisks are two sitting statues of the same Remeses—one on either side of the pylon or gateway, but like the former they are much buried in the earth and sand accumulated around them.

Near the north-west extremity of the propla another similar Colossus rears its head amidst the houses of the village, which also conceal a great portion of the interesting battle scenes on the front of the towers. Many of these are very spirited; and on the western tower is the camp, surrounded by a wall, represented by Egyptian shields, with a guard posted at the gate. Within are chariots, horses, and the spoil taken from the enemy, as well as the holy place that held the Egyptian ark in a tent; instances of which are found on other monuments, as at Aboosimil. There is also the king's chariot, shaded by a large umbrella or parasol.

The area within, whose dimensions are about 190 ft. by 170 ft., is surrounded by a peristyle, consisting of two rows of columns, now almost concealed by hovels, and the mosk of the village. The line of direction no longer continues the same behind this court, the Remesean front having been turned to the eastward, which was done in order to facilitate its connexion with the great Temple of Karnak, as well as to avoid the vicinity of the river. Passing through the pylon of Amunoph you arrive at the great colonnade, where the names of this Pharaoh and of Amun-Toöknah (or Toonck) are sculptured. The latter, however, has been effaced, as is generally the case wherever it is met with. And those of Horus (the successor of Amunoph III.) and of Sethi are introduced in its stead.

The Memnonium, shown in our Illustration, vies for symmetry of architecture and elegance of sculpture with any other Egyptian monument. The easternmost of the two sitting Colossi was once the wonder of the ancients. It has been a subject of controversy among modern writers, some of whom, notwithstanding the numerous inscriptions which decide it to have been the vocal Memnon of the Romans, have thought fit to doubt its being the very statue said by ancient authors to utter a sound at the rising of the sun. Strabo, who visited it with Œlius Gallus, the Governor of Egypt, confesses that he heard the sound, but could "not affirm whether it proceeded from the pedestal or from the statue itself, or even from some of those who stood near its base;" and it appears, from his not mentioning the name Memnon, that it was not yet supposed to be the statue of that doubtful personage.

The proportions of the Colossi are about the same as those of the granite statute of Remises II.; but they are inferior in the weight and hardness of their materials. They measure about 18 ft. 3 in. across the shoulders, 16 ft. 6 in. from the top of the shoulders, 17 ft. 9 in. from the elbow to the finger's end, and 19 ft. 8 in. from the knee to the plant of the foot. The thrones are ornamented with figures of the God Nilus, who, holding the stalks of two plants peculiar to the river, is engaged in binding up a pedestal or table, surmounted by the name of the Egyptian monarch—a symbolic group—indicating his dominion over the upper and lower countries. A line of hieroglyphics extends perpendicularly down the back, from the shoulder to the pedestal, containing the name of Pharaoh they represent.

Three hundred feet behind these are the remains of another colossus of similar form and dimensions, which, fallen prostrate, is partly buried in the alluvial deposits of the Nile.

Our third Illustration represents a very characteristic bit of Eastern life—a performance by the *Almées* at Syout. This was after a banquet during the festivities. Let the reader imagine a large open square at night, a troupe of dancing-girls (for *Almées* means dancing as well as singing girls) whirling about voluptuously, and a crowd of spectators with their faces lit up by the fires in the braziers which are shown in the picture. It was a strange sight—one of the strangest, perhaps, of all that the Khedivé's guests saw during their stay in the Land of Egypt.

Now that the festivities are over, and the Empress returned to Paris, it is interesting to look at the cost of the entertainments. The expense of entertaining the guests was £80,000, exclusive of charges for Nile boats, twenty of which were hired for the passengers at £180 each. The total cost of the affair will be at least half-a-million of money.

BIRMINGHAM CATTLE, POULTRY, AND DOG SHOWS.

During the past two weeks we have given exterior and interior sketches of Curzon and Bingley Halls. This week we present a series of portraits of the prize animals and birds, drawn by our special artist Mr. W. H. Pigott, whose work we are sure will meet with general approval.

On the front page we give a sketch of the picturesque head of the first prize in class 16 for West Highland Oxen or Steers. It was exhibited by Captain Gunter, The Grange, Wetherby, Yorkshire. Age about four years. Fed on oil cake, bean meal, Thorley's food, turnips, mangolds, grass, and hay.

The group of cattle includes Colonel Townley's short-horn heifer, *Thistledown*, bred by D. Ainslie, Esq., Costerton. Sire, "Duke of Tyne;" dam, "Lady Favourite." Age three years and nearly nine months. Fed on grass, oil cake, hay, and provender. The next portrait is the first prize and extra prize ox bred and exhibited by Mr. James Stephen, Conglass, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire. Sire, "Malcolm." Age, four years and eleven months. Fed on grass, straw, cake, and corn. Mr. Stephen also takes with this animal the prize medal as breeder. The third illustration represents the first prize in the long horn class for oxen or steers. Exhibitor, Mr. Joseph Holland Burbery, The Chase, Kenilworth, who gets the silver medal as breeder. Age, three years and eight months. Fed on hay, roots, meal, oil cake, and Beach's cattle food.

Our group of sheep and pigs represent the following prizes. Class 30. For fat wethers not exceeding 22 months old. First prize and silver medal as breeder, Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, M.P., Lockinge Park, Wantage, Berks. Age, 20 months. Fed on corn, oil cake, roots, and hay (Hampshire Down). Class 27 (Shropshire) first prize and extra prize and silver medal as breeder. Exhibitor and breeder the Right Honourable Lord Chesham, Latimer, Chesham, Bucks. Age, 20 months. Fed on roots, oil cake, corn, grass, and hay. The fat pigs are the first prize in class 32, and medal as breeder. Exhibitor and breeder Mr. John Treadwell, Upper Winchenden, Aylesbury. Age, 10 months less 2 days. Fed on skim milk, meal, and Thorley's food. Third prize: Her Majesty the Queen, Windsor Castle. Age, 9 months and 3 weeks. Fed on barley meal, sharps, and Beach's food.

The group of dogs contains portraits of Irish spaniel which obtained the first prize in class 45, and silver cup for the best spaniel in all classes. The exhibitor, Mr. P. J. D. Lindoe, Royal Engineers, Brompton barracks, Chatham. Age of dog 5 years; breeder, Mr. Robson, Hull. First prize bloodhound: exhibitor and breeder, Mr. C. E. Holford, High Oak House, near Ware, Herts. Age, 1 year and 6 months. First prize bull terrier (large size); exhibitor, Mr. James Hinks, 53, Worcester-street, Birmingham. Age, 2 years and 5 months. First prize bull terrier (small); exhibitor and breeder, Mr. Charles Aldington, 2, Lane's-buildings, Lee Bank-road, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Age, 2 years and 7 weeks. First prize spaniel, class 51; exhibitor Mr. P. Bullock, Bilston. Age 1 year and 2 months. First prize Bulldog: exhibitor and breeder, Mr. F. Lamphier, 5, Bramwell-street, St. Philip's-road, Sheffield. Age, 1 year and 2 months.

Our sketches of poultry include the first prize in the Dorking class (coloured, except silver-grey) cocks. The exhibitor, Mrs. Arkwright, Sutton, Skarsdale, Chesterfield. First prize in Malays, class 29 (cocks exceeding 1 year old), Rev. A. G. Brooke, Ruyton-XI-Towns, Salop; and Mr. John Fox's (St. Bee's, Cumberland) Dorking hens, which took the first prize in class 3 for Dorkings (coloured, except silver-grey), hens exceeding 1 year old.

THE "AVANT GARDE."

Those who know anything of soldier-life will be aware that amongst the most exciting duties of *le militaire* is that of foraging—hunting up provisions, looking out for a sleeping-place, and reconnoitring to discover the whereabouts of the enemy. This is what the soldiers in our Illustration, The Avant Garde, are doing. Fording a stream in the silence of the night, the task of the *avant garde*, while sufficiently exciting, is not an enviable one, though to men who have passed through "war's alarms" it may seem a very mild sort of thing. The picture in the French Exhibition, from which our Illustration is engraved, is a striking feature of the Academy, and has attracted a great deal of attention.

Some valuable objects have been found in an excavation recently made at Pompeii. Among the discoveries were a human skeleton, almost perfect, a pair of gold earrings with pearls, a gold bracelet, and five gold coins, 782 silver coins, three silver rings, and 67 pieces of bronze money. The coins were all of the Consular and Imperial periods. The jewelry and coins will be placed almost immediately in the Naples Museum, and the skeleton in the Pompeii Museum, together with the human remains previously discovered.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

There is a probability of the Overend-Gurney prosecution falling through.

There have been some murderous poaching affrays on the Royal preserves at Windsor.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's health is improving slowly.

The Habeas Corpus, as we should say in England, has been re-established in Spain.

The Empress of the French has arrived at Paris from her journey in the East.

The Queen visited the Princess of Wales at Marlborough House, on Thursday.

According to a letter in the *Leeds Mercury*, the Cabinet has authorised Mr. Forster to draft an education bill.

The Œcumenical Council began its sittings at Rome on Wednesday. Rome is crowded with visitors.

Louisville, by a vote of seventeen to five in the School Board, has refused to exclude the reading of the Bible from the public schools.

The new metropolitan police magistrate is Mr. Franklin Lushington, and not, as reported, Mr. Bruce, brother of the Home Secretary.

On Monday the roof of the dining hall at King's College, London, fell in. A little later, and some 200 boys might have been killed.

Two hundred and sixty nuisances are reported to exist in Dudley, and to require immmediate attention.

The Red River rebellion is subsiding, The insurgents are chiefly French half-breeds; and a despatch from Fort Garry says only about 50 of those are under arms.

There are no indications of relenting on the part either of the masters or the men in the Thorncliffe dispute. The relations of the former with their non-unionist workmen are not altogether harmonious, and a number of those employed in the Thankersley pit stopped work on Friday morning on account of certain alleged grievances.—*Sheffield Independent*.

Colliery Explosion.—There was an explosion on Friday, at the Swan Lane Colliery, Hindley-Green, near Wigan. Four men were badly injured. There was a little choke-damp after the explosion, sufficient to make the sufferers "drunk." One collier can hardly explain how he reached the surface. As naked lights are used in the mine it is more than probable the gas was ignited at a candle.

Calling in the Volunteers' Arms.—The Secretary of State for War has decided to call in all the rifles at present in use by the volunteers, except such as have been specially issued for prize shooting at Wimbledon. The arms will not be required to be sent in all at once, but by districts. The rifles are to be sent to the Tower, where they will be examined, and all that have been deteriorated by wear and tear will be replaced by the rifles now in use by the militia. The army estimates for 1870-71 will provide for the issue of Snider rifles to the militia.

A Pleasant Country to Live in.—According to the *Madras Athenæum*, Madras must be a very agreeable country to live in. That journal says a week ago the whole of the mails from Madras and Bengalore were carried off. It seems some dacoits stretched a rope across the road somewhere near Hurryhur, which of course stopped the mail cart; the horse-keepers and driver were beaten severely, and the letter bags carried off, and at one time it was thought never to be seen again, but the Postmaster has news of a greater part having been recovered. It is a good thing the cart stopped had not the overland mails in, or there would have been lamentations in Madras.

How to Liquidate a National Debt.—The task of liquidating the national debt of a country appears to be simpler of accomplishment than many persons would suppose. The *New York Herald* publishes an abstract of Treasurer Spinner's report, stating that since the 11th of May, 1869, the Treasury has paid 89,000,000 dollars for Bonds on account of the Sinking Fund Act and the Fund held subject to the action of Congress. According to this report the same rate of purchase and investment, together with the accrued interest thereon, would liquidate the national debt in thirteen years. The Revenue collectors in Brooklyn are meeting with forcible opposition, and had to procure an escort of 800 Federal troops and occupy the Irish locality in Brooklyn, where they seized and destroyed a large number of illicit distilleries.

How they Try Indians Down West.—An instructive account of the manner in which justice is meted out to the Indians in the West has been put upon record. Four Indians (Yellow Sun, Little Wolf, Blue Hawk, and Horse Driver) being charged at Omaha, upon the merest assumption, with murder, a person called as a juryman was asked if he had any prejudice against the prisoners, as Indians or otherwise, that would prevent his giving an impartial verdict; he replied, "No, only that he had been chased by Indians, and had been in battles with them, and that he would hang every devil of them at sight." Another juryman, being asked the same question, said he certainly had a prejudice against the entire Indian nation. The Judge inquired whether he would not consider himself responsible to obey his oath to give a true verdict according to the evidence. The juror replied that he did not consider himself responsible for anything he could do to an Indian. It might remind one of the trial scene in Bunyan's account of the Pilgrims passing through Vanity Fair; but at Omaha both these persons were passed over in making the jury. All the prisoners were found guilty of murder; a local paper states that this was more than even the attorneys for the prosecution had any hope of, but that "popular opinion fully endorses the verdict." On the way back to the cell Blue Hawk and Horse Driver suddenly bounded over the fence of the gaol-yard, and were lost in the darkness. An hour afterwards Horse Driver knocked at the door of the gaol and asked for his blanket, which had fallen off as he jumped over the wall. He was immediately secured, greatly to his surprise and indignation, as he evidently believed that having stood his trial and made good his escape he would not be molested again, and that he would be allowed to have his blanket.

May Flowers.—"Rusticus," writing to the *Jersey Times* a few days ago, says—"It may interest some of your readers to know that the Hawthorn, Cratœgus Oxycanthus, popularly known as May, can now be seen in bloom in St. Lawrence's Valley. Walking into St. Helier's through the lane which runs parallel with St. Aubin's road, I saw the May blossom at intervals on the thorn hedge behind Lansdowne-terrace and Galaad chapel."

A Warning to Mothers.—Those having the care of children cannot be too particular what medicine they obtain for their young charges. The child of a collier at Bolton was unwell, and the mother went to the shop of Thomas Haslam, grocer, of Kay-street, and asked for a pennyworth of castor-oil pills. She gave the child one of the pills on the following day, and immediately afterwards it fell into a deep sleep. Convulsions followed, and although two surgeons were called in the child died at one o'clock on Saturday morning. Dr. Holt said the box was labelled "cough pills," and the pills themselves contained either morphia or opium; of opium each pill would contain half a grain, which was equal to ten drops of laudanum. The child's death had no doubt been produced by an opiate. Haslam said he sold the pills believing them to be of castor oil. He did not read the label on the box, and he was not aware that he had any cough pills in his shop. At the inquest the Jury returned a verdict of "Death by misadventure." The Coroner said they had taken a merciful view of the matter. Haslam had undoubtedly been the cause of the child's death, and though he was liberated from that Court he might yet be brought up before the Magistrates.

A Hundred and Thirty-Four Persons Killed.—Two fearful disasters have occured in Mexico. The first took place on the 9th of October, in the silver mine of Jesu Maria, near the city of Guansjuato. About 1,500 *peons* and Indians are employed in this mine during the entire year. Some of its chambers have been extended 3,000 feet from the opening. On the date mentioned, while the labourers were seated in one of the broader chambers eating their noon-day meat, they were startled by a sudden crumbling sound above them, caused by the giving way of an immense portion of the shelving rock which formed the roof of the chamber. The whole number rose to their feet, breaking in different directions, and running against each other in wild confusion. With them were their wives and children, who had brought them their simple meals, and were waiting to return with their pails and baskets. Scarcely a second intervened between the instant the alarming sound was heard from above, and the crash upon the chamber floor below, followed by a cloud of dust and the mingled cries of a thousand voices. Twenty-five thousand tons of rock in a body had buried in an instant, as was afterwards ascertained, upwards of a hundred miners, their wives, sisters, and children. The height—400 feet—from which the immense fragment of the overhanging mountain fell, gave such deadly momentum to the great weight that none who were struck knew of the terrible blow which sent them into eternity.—The day following that on which the mine disaster occurred sixteen women, six children, and twelve men were drowned in the River Merecale, State of Michcacan. They had reached the river bank, and sat down to rest before undertaking to ford the river, which had been swollen by the late rains. The bank upon which they sat overhung an angry current, and suddenly slid off from the main land into the stream. Every one perished.

The Smithfield Club Show.—In many respects the great London show of Christmas fat cattle, which began at the Agricultural Hall on Monday, was the best show that has been seen for several years. This is especially the case with the Devons and the short-horn classes. There was a slight falling-off; but the cross and mixed breeds were a grand collection. The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Sutherland, the Marquis of Exeter, the Earl of Darnley, and the Messrs. Martin, of Aberdeen, were all exhibitors of Scotch horned steers or oxen, and as the beasts they sent were creditable to the names of those who sent them, it certainly speaks well for the strength of the competition that not one of the distinguished persons we have named has, in this class, carried off a prize. The Earl of Aylesford's Birmingham first-prize steer took the first honours of the Islington show. In the cross-bred oxen and steer class, Mr. M'Pherson's red steer carried off the first prize, and Messrs. Martin's short-horn and Aberdeenshire steer, which was first in its class at Birmingham, the second in the extra prizes. The Earl of Aylesford took the silver cup of the value of £40 which is given to the exhibitor of the best steer or ox in any class, together with the gold medal to the breeder. Meanwhile, the silver cup of the same value for the best heifer or cow in any class had been adjudged to Sir Walter Calverley Trevelyan's short-horned cow, "Princess of Yetholm," in competition with Mr. James Allen's cross-bred heifer, which had taken the first prize in Class 34. Lord Aylesford's steer and Sir Walter's cow were thus left to contest the great prize of £100, given to the exhibitor of the best beast, absolutely, in the show. The judgment between the male and female short-horns seemed to be balanced very evenly, till at last the scale was turned in favour of the gentleman. Thus was the Birmingham champion twice victorious, winning the Islington prizes of the aggregate value of £170, and the gold medal in addition. Rapidly reviewing the prize-list, we find that the awards at Birmingham were, in the case of the Devon beasts, partially reversed at the Agricultural Hall; and this in spite of the circumstance somewhat complained of, that the list of judges at Islington includes gentlemen who undertook the same duty at Birmingham, and may therefore be said to have followed some of the beasts up to town. The Queen takes a third prize in the first Devon class, and a first prize in Class 11, for short-horned steers, not exceeding two years and a half. Her Majesty is second in the class for Hereford steers; but as Mr. Philip Turner, the winner of the first prize, is her only competitor, the success is hardly worth mentioning. The Prince of Wales has a first prize for a Norfolk polled heifer. A curiosity among the extra stock cattle is an ox, one of a shipment of nineteen from the River Plate, a distance from London of nearly 6,000 miles. The sheep and pig shows were of the usual excellence.

The Pantin Tragedy.—Traupmann is said to have made further important revelations, and the trial, it is now believed, will not commence until January 15. He shows great disposition to gain time, and he has the right of appealing to the Court of Cassation against the finding against him of the Chambre des Mises en Accusation—the French equivalent for our grand jury. Now the supplementary "instruction" rendered necessary by the finding of the body of Kinck, senior, is not over yet. The "chambre" aforesaid has to report on it; the prisoner has a right to chalienge its finding; and then, after the Court of Cassation has pronounced, and only then, can the Procureur Imperial begin to draw up his *acte d'accusation.*

Fatal Railway Accidents.—Two fatal accidents on the Midland Railway are reported to have occurred on Thursday morning, the 2nd inst. Henry Kirby, a horse driver in the employ of the company at the Chaddesden siding, was engaged in his usual avocation of driving one of the horses at the above siding. At a certain part the lines converge to a point, and in approaching one of them with his horse he did not unhook the latter sufficiently early, and was struck by the "horse stretcher" and sent between the wagons on the other line of rails. He was frightfully crushed. He was conveyed to the Derbyshire Infirmary, but died as soon as he reached the hospital. The second case was that of a lad named William Stafford, aged 14, who was also engaged as a horse-driver at the Ambergate Ironworks. He was driving a horse that was attached to some wagons on the sidings at Ambergate, when his attention was called to an approaching goods train. Instead of attending to his horse he stared at the approaching train, and the horse, turning round, knocked him on to the main line, and the train went over him. He was sent on by train to the Derbyshire Infirmary, and died the same day.

The Fasting Girl in Wales.—There is a probability of a searching investigation into the case of the little Welsh girl, Sarah Jacobs, who is said to have ceased eating food of any description for two and a half years. The matter has been taken in hand by Mr. Griffiths, better known in the literary world as "Gohebydd." He has seen Dr. Phillips, of Guy's Hospital, in order to ascertain whether it were possible to have four experienced nurses sent down to the farm of Llethernoyadd to watch the little fasting girl. Dr. Phillips at once approved the idea, obtained the sanction of the authorities at Guy's, and has sent some suggestions for approval by the girl's parents and those interested. These suggestions were submitted to a meeting held at Lanfihange-ar-arth on Tuesday (at which Evan Jacob and his wife were present), and unanimously approved. A committee was formed to make arrangements for the reception of the nurses and to collect subscriptions to cover the expenses. A medical committee was also formed to visit the girl occasionally during the watching, which will probably commence in a few days. Evan Jacob, the father of the girl, promises every assistance in his power, and that he will place no impediment in the way of a thorough test; in fact, he has signed an agreement to that effect.

Railway Robbers.—A bold attempt was made on Friday night to rob the "cash" train of the North-Eastern Railway Company, between York and Malton. The last train took out the fortnight's wages for the Malton, Scarborough, and Whitby districts and road stations, the amount being estimated between £200 and £300. The van at the end of the train was in care of James Bean, to whose presence of mind is apparently due the frustration of the thieves' object. There is an incline approaching Barton-hill station, half-way between Malton and York, and steam would be shut off at nearly a mile distant. This operation causes a contraction of the whole train, and at this moment it seems the coupling chains between the van and the train were thrown off, leaving the van on the line. On arriving at Barton-hill the van was missed, and the train put back in search of it for more than half a mile. The night was intensely dark, and no one could be seen about, but it was evident that some person or persons must have rode on the buffers, for not only were the side chains off, but the screw coupling was undone to nearly the last thread. Bean, it seems, suddenly remembered the Strensall robbery, and resolved to stick to his van and the money. The thief or thieves were consequently frustrated. It is remarkable that two attacks of this daring nature should have occurred between York and Malton. No clue has as yet been obtained likely to throw light on the occurrence.

Insoluble Enamel for Wood, Paper, and Tissues.—The specification of a Belgian patent taken out last year by M. N. Tchepelevsky has just been published, and, if its claims be well founded, deserves attention. The enamel or composition employed consists of two parts:—a solution of glue mixed with glycerine and alum; and a solution of the peculiar chemical substance known as Ramstedt's *Verdine*, in water. The former is prepared in the following manner:—the glue is soaked in cold water for twenty-four hours; the surplus water then being poured off, boiling water is added to the extent of half or three quarters the weight of the glue; to this are added 1-16th part of glycerine, and 1-116th part of Roman alum, or more according to the soupple-ness required to be given to the substance to receive the composition, previously dissolved in 1-40th part of hot water; the whole is then to be boiled together, the scvm arising from the alum to be skimmed off, and finally passed through a metal strainer. The filtered liquor is then to be returned to the boiler, the latter having been carefully cleaned, and kept at a heat of about 90dgs. The verdine is dissolved in fourteen times its own weight in water; and, if to a hundred parts of the glue solution be added from five to seven parts of verdine, a substance is obtained which, when cold, is hard and insoluble in water, alcohol, and oils. The method of varnishing or enamelling wood, paste-board, &c. is as follows:—the surface is first to be wetted with the solution of verdine; the glue solution is then applied, and finally the verdine, heated to the boiling point. This varnish is said to be excellent for vessels intended for the storing of liquids which evaporate easily, such as oil of roses. and also for barrels to contain spirits, oils, and essences of all kihds.

LITERATURE.

Storm-beaten. By Robert Buchanan and George Gibbon. Parlour Library Edition. London: Ward and Lock, Paternoster-row.

The authors are both known to Fame—the first by his "Undertones," the second through "Dangerous Connections." They have written a pleasant Christmas volume, full of interesting stories, which are happily more original than the title and plan of the book. "Storm-bound," by Walter Reid, was published last Christmas, and its arrangement was similar to this; so was *Tinsley's* Christmas Number. For one of the earliest examples of this kind of frame-work one might indeed go back to Boccacio. "Storm-beaten" opens with an introduction showing how the good ship *Boomerang* was compelled to put back into the port of Scuttle-upon-Kegg, and how "we came together on Christmas Eve in the Old Anchor Inn." "We" then begin to tell tales, of course, and the result is a very striking selection of stories, which we can heartily recommend for Christmas reading.

"Christmas Eve" with the Spirits; or the Canon's Wanderings through Ways Unknown. London: Bull, Simmons, and Co. 9, Wigmore-street.

"I have always esteemed anonymous publications," says the author in a preface, "as only to be excused for two purposes. First, for any author who, having written and published many works with his name attached, wishing to test whether his writing deteriorates or improves, publishes one anonymously, and consequently without any *prestige* attaching to his name. Secondly, for an author publishing his first work and wishing it to be fairly tested by its own merits alone. All other anonymous publications I deem most inexcusable, and to signify, in one word, 'cowardice.' For one of these reasons, therefore, I have published this work without any other name than that of 'The Author.'" Need we quote any further to show which of the two "reasons" has influenced the ill-advised gentleman who has found publishers for this weak little book. We hope the anonymous writer will be content with the honest judgment of an honest critic. His book has no merit whatever, not even the merit of cleverness in dragging into the story the shadowy forms of Scrooge and Tiny Tim. The author may have great ability in other ways, but we can assure him that he need not for a moment fear that his work will be mistaken for that of "an author who, having written and published many works with his name attached," writes one anonymously to see if the public will of their own accord recognises the dear familiar hand of the popular and world-renowned author of many previous books.

Many Happy Returns of the Day. By Charles and Mary Cowden Clarke. London: C. Lockwood and Co., Stationers' Hall Court.

The youth of the present generation are fortunate in many things, and in nothing more than the devotion of some of our best writers to their interests. Never was so much written for boys as now; never so much rubbish, never so much that is of sterling value. If the worthless publications that appeal to boys are very numerous, so are the good books. Parents in all classes of society would do well to watch with jealous care the cheap periodicals that are tricked out in meretricious colours to excite the appetite of the young. It is a matter for almost national congratulation when authors of repute undertake to write for the rising generation—the Cowden Clarkes, for example. They have earned their laurels in classical fields. The lady's Concordance to Shakespeare is a monument to her industry and scholarship. The work before us ought to be one of the rarest treasures in every boy's library. It is a birth-day book of the most interesting and useful character. Opening with a chapter on "Birthdays," full of wayside knowledge, the work treats of boyish sports and pastimes of every kind. It gossips wisely and kindly about poultry, rabbits, dogs, bees, silkworms, parrots, gold and silver fish, and squirrels. Then we have all sorts of out-door games in the next chapter—swimming, skating, archery, driving, riding; followed by remarks on out-door studies and in-door games. Upon the latter subject there are a few curious facts which will bear repeating. For example:—

CHESS INCIDENTS.

> Charlemagne was a chess-player; Sebastian, King of Portugal; the Emperor Charles V.; Philip II. of Spain; Pope Leo X.; Henry IV. of France; these and many other Sovereigns were devoted to the game. John of Austria and a Duke of Weimar once played with living men. They had chambers paved with squares of black and white marble, on which they played at chess with living figures. This was in the feudal times. The French are not great chess players. They seem to lack the gravity and patience which the Spanish and Russian exhibit in the game.

Here are a few hints upon a pastime which many of our young readers are no doubt anxiously hoping soon to enjoy:—

SKATING.

> The irons should be about three-quarters of an inch in height, and a quarter of an inch thick, made of good steel, well secured to the wooden portion of the skate, which should be slightly hollowed, to adapt itself to the ball of the foot; the skate should fit the boot thoroughly, and be well secured by the heel-peg and straps. Avoid all unnecessary action with the arms; raise them easily and alternately with the rising and falling of each leg in striking the ice at every new progression. The Italians have a proverb, *chi va piano va sano*, which means, "he who goes softly goes safely"—a caution in skating which the novice cannot be too careful in obeying; and be bold, but not violent, and don't look down on the ice or at your feet. Let your body lean a little forward at first, as it is safer to fall forwards than backwards.

This suggests the ugly fact that there is such a thing as falling—one of the miseries of learning to skate. But one must fall now and then in every new study, pursuit, or pastime; it is one of the early penalties paid for ultimate success. The authors of the work before us, however, show the reader how to avoid many of the obstacles over which he might otherwise stumble; and we can honestly commend their work to all our boy friends as a safe guide upon all kinds of amusements and studies. When Pater is next in a difficulty about the selection of a birthday present, let him remember this prettily-bound and admirably-illustrated book of the Cowden Clarkes.

Old Merry's Travels on the Continent. With numerous Illustrations. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

We have not met with a more agreeable book of travels for young people than "Old Merry's" for many a long day. Those who have not been on the Continent will not be more interested in the work than those who have. It is a light, chatty, intelligent narrative, bringing back the pleasantest memories to travelled youngsters, and giving stay-at-homes a rare amount of entertaining news of foreign places. "Merry" starts with several boys from England, goes to Paris, Switzerland, and the Rhine, talks to you *en route* about what there is to be seen, and lets his young companions chatter all the way. In Paris one morning the boys went out alone, and this is their description of what they saw:—

THE STREETS OF PARIS.

> "But the streets, Mr. Merry!—I never saw such a comical sight in my life!" laughed Walter; "the people are all having their breakfast out in the streets, at little round tables, in front of the *cafés*, and they don't seem to eat much, but they have big cups of coffee, and little glasses by the side, and decanters of something that looks very much like *eau-de-vie*. And they sip, and smoke, and sip again—and everybody seems excited about something or other. I think it must be a *fête*." But when I assured them that that was a custom of the country, they thought Paris was one of the jolliest places they had ever visited.
>
> "And we saw another curious thing," said Alec; "a funeral passed along the street, and all the mourners were walking, although they seemed very respectable people; and the coffin was laid under an open canopy—not a hearse, like we have in England—and we could see the coffin. Everybody took off their hats as it went by, and we walked by the side of it to see if the people who were smoking and drinking at the *cafés* would do so too, and they did; all the people stopped their talking and raised their hats. It is a beautiful custom."
>
> "It is," said I. "Solomon says, 'a living dog is better than a dead lion.' That may be true enough, But there is a sorrow that is common to all, and this touch of nature makes the whole nation kin. I take it to be a beautiful expression of sympathy and respect for a sorrow which all have felt or will feel."

Elsewhere there is a note about Strasbourg which a few years ago would have been news to the epicures of London, though it might not have influenced their appetites. It may not be generally known how *pâté de foie gras* is made; yes, made, we say it advisedly:—

A POPULAR DAINTY.

> Strasbourg is celebrated for its cathedral, and for *pâté de foie gras*. As many people think more of the latter than they do of the former, I will tell you that these *pâtés* are made of the livers of geese. The geese are over-fed, and then kept by a fire till their livers swell so much that they attain the weight of two or three pounds, and then they are cooked for other geese to feed upon, and pay dearly for. For common humanity's sake, let me say that we did not indulge in this diabolical luxury. Walter said that to enjoy the cathedral, you must admire the art of stone-work, and to eat the *pâtés* you must do heart-of-stone work. But that was ridiculous, as we all said at the time, so we had a good supper and some Strasbourg beer—the very best in France, as the water from which it is made seems as if it were especially designed for brewing purposes—and went to bed in the most quaint old rooms imaginable.

Walter's joke is almost as bad as the *gras*, though not quite so puerile as some of the burlesque puns. They have introduced Vienna beer into London, why not Strasbourg? For our own part we dislike both, except in the countries which produce them.

NEW MUSIC.

Only. By Brinley Richards. London: Duff and Stewart, 147, Oxford-street.

This is one of Virginia Gabriel's pretty ballads arranged as a piano-forte piece. It is by Brinley Richards, and does not change into three or four flats to finish. Those who know the composer ought to buy "Only" at once, if only out of curiosity. Apart from this it is a nice piece, easy of execution, and very effective.

The Globe Waltz. By G. Richardson. London: Duff and Stewart.

A characteristic set of waltzes, not too difficult for ordinary players, and well suited to the ball-room. Mr. Richardson is the musical director of the Globe Theatre where the work before us is popular and familiar, as it will no doubt be in the Midlands.

"Oh! Gentle Rose." Written by F. Richardson. Music by W. W. Woodward. London: Cocks and Co.

Poet and musician in this instance are local. The song is indeed a Derby production, and it does the authors infinite credit. As a sentimental ballad, the work is a happy conception, admirably consummated. It is written in four flats, with a telling accompaniment, and deserves to become a drawing-room favourite.

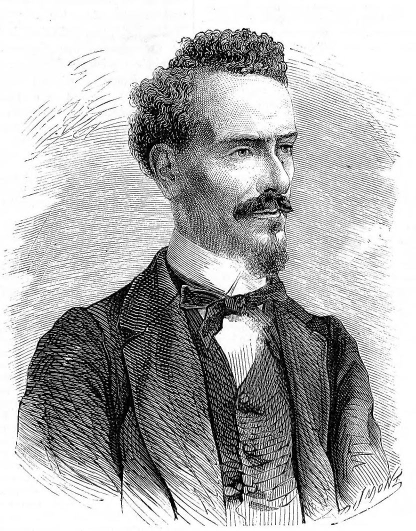
Gas lighting by electricity has been practically tested in the United States; the capital at Washington having had its 3,000 gas burners fitted with the requisite apparatus for turning on their taps and igniting their jets instantaneously and simultaneously by the agency of a galvanic current. A large store in the Broadway, New York has its 2,000 lights similarly under the control of an electrical lamplighter, and it is purposed to apply the system to street illumination. If this is done there will be no further need of ladder and lantern-bearing functionaries; one man, in a central office, will have a keyboard before him, and when he desires to light up any particular street he will merely have to press down a corresponding key, and the passengers through the said street will see it illuminated as if by magic.

Savage Assault at Chesterfield.—A man named Nicholls is in custody at Chesterfield for an assault upon James Hawley, who received ill-treatment of the most brutal character, being totally blind from it, and he had been so violently kicked on one side of the face that it had swollen out nearly to the shoulder. He says that a man met him and asked him for some money, and because he refused to give it him he commenced the attack upon him from which he suffered. Nicholls, the man found near him has been taken into his room; but of course being yet blind, he could not swear to him except by his voice, which he says is exactly like that of the man who ill-treated him. On Wednesday Nicholls was brought before Mr. J. Wright, at the Municipal Hall, charged with the offence. Superintendent Farnell briefly narrated the facts of the case as given above, and asked for a remand until Monday next, which was granted.

M. HENRI ROCHEFORT.

For the last two years no name has been more frequently on Frenchmens' lips than that of M. Henri Rochefort, the editor of the notorious *Lanterne*, whose portrait we engrave this week. Of good family, M. Rochefort began his literary career in what the French call "Little journalism." Having edited the *Charivari* and the *Nain-Jaune*, Rochefort joined the *Figaro*, in which connection his originality and caustic style in a short time earned for him a reputation. His subsequent establishment of the *Lanterne* is too well known to require narration here. In the pages of that journal he has attacked most unscrupulously the Emperor, Empress, and even the young Prince Imperial; yet, strange to say, the electors of the First Circumscription of the Department of the Seine elected him by a large majority to represent them in the Legislature. Previous to his election, he was in exile at Brussels, from which city he sent his newspapers broadcast through France. But after all, *La Lanterne* is a *brutum fulmen;* Rochefort's gibes and jeers fall harmless upon the objects of his wrath, and few pay any attention to them. From time to time we have given particulars of Rochefort's recent career; we now reproduce an extract from the account of Rochefort's entrance to the new Chamber, taken from the Paris Correspondent's letter in the *Birmingham Post* :—

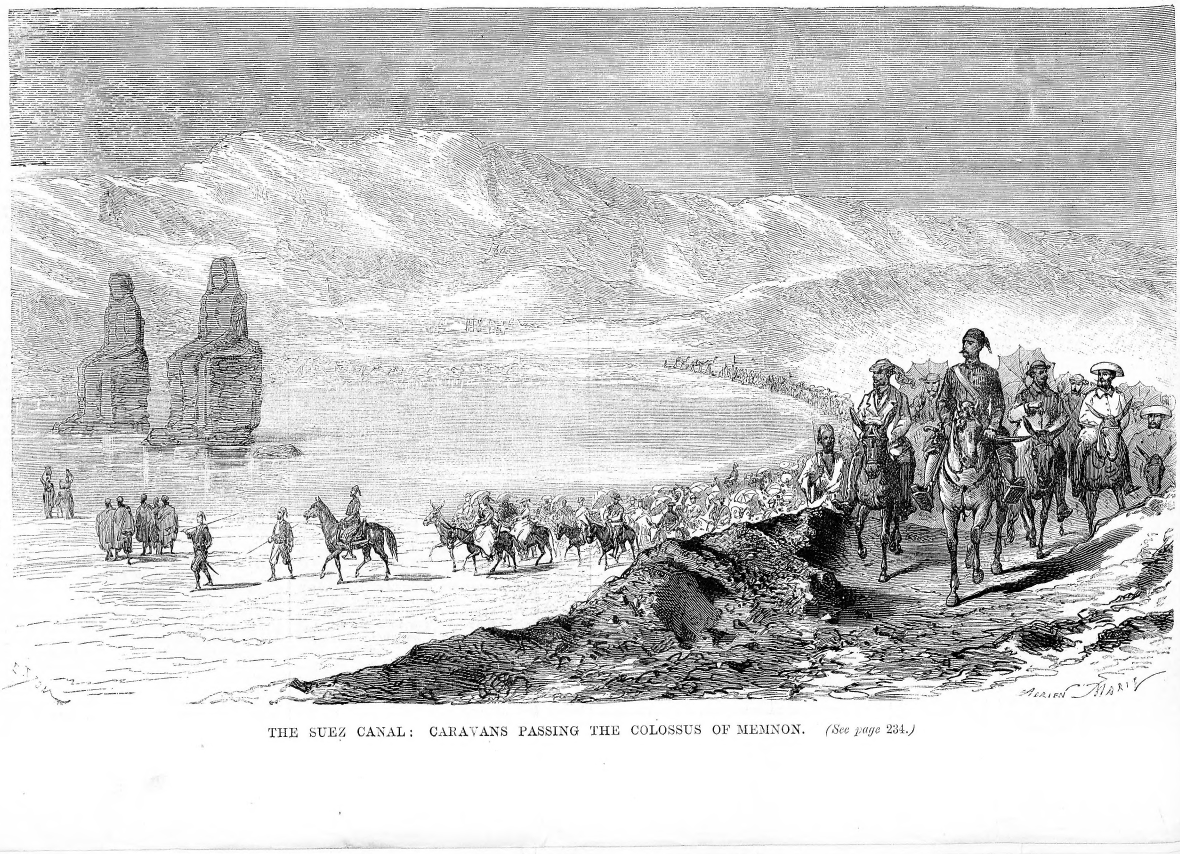
"Whatever the result, the taking of his seat by Rochefort, after refusing to take the oath of allegiance, was an event to be recorded in the annals of French history. There had been anticipation of a row, and busy newsmongers had spread a report all over the city that a terrible manifestation would be made in favour of the Reds. But Pietri knew better, and save a few additional *sergens de ville*, no preparation for meeting the catastrophe was visible. The heavens were pouring a deluge, and Pietri knows from experience how little moisture it requires to cool the patriotic fire of the French blood. This report of riot and the weather combined must account for the emptiness of the galleries generally so well filled at an opening session. The Reds enter one by one and take the seats appointed to them amid the measured comments of the Government party. Raspail, full of age and honours, yet elastic as ever under their weight, bounds to his place with all the agility of a young man; then Cremieux, ugly as ever, with his lips curled into a sardonic smile; then Esquiros, looking round with eagle eye, to see which of his adversaries he must first devour. But where is Rochefort? Will he dare to come? Will he not still be indisposed? No, here he is at last! The ladies in the gallery bend forward with eagerness—they express their admiration aloud, and so great is the silence produced by the entrance of the hero of an hour, that every syllable is distinctly heard. Rochefort's countenance is a shade paler than usual—that is to say, while the yellow tints remain around the mouth and eyes, the cheeks and forehead are blanched to ashy whiteness. It is evident he *feels* the responsibility of his position, but is determined to allow no consciousness of embarrassment to become visible. So he walks steadily to his place next to Raspail on one side and Kerartey on the other. He deliberately takes off his gloves and places them in his hat, while the audience seems to hang suspended on every movement as though it were of vital importance to the State. Old Colonel Regius, chosen as President by precedence of age, at length rouses the attention of the assembly from its puerile preoccupation concerning the movements of the hero, by proclaiming, in a cracked voice, the names of several deputies who demand a *congé*. 'What already?' cries Rochefort, true to his instincts of *gamin de Paris*, at which a roar of laughter bursts from the whole assembly, in which even the *Droits* cannot help joining, and Thiers's little squeaking laugh is heard above all the rest. . . . . Then begins another riot, more formidable than the first. Raspail essays to speak; Regius endeavours to prevent him. Not a word from either one or the other can be heard. 'A duet between two dumb singers!' exclaims Rochefort again, true to his instincts of *gamin de Paris*. And amidst it all the *seance* concludes. It rains; the torrents pour down from the weeping heavens. Every sentiment, save that of self-preservation, is drowned at once, and each man rushes home to hist *pot-au-feu* or to the *restaurateur's* and his *pieces de mouton*. The *sergens de ville*, wrapped in their waterproofs, steal quietly off to the *Prefecture de Police*, to report upon the quiet, orderly behaviour of the populace, wishing all the while they could say as much for its representatives. And so ends the second day's probation of the new *regime*, which had been held out as full of promise of enlightenment and moral progress to this benighted people."

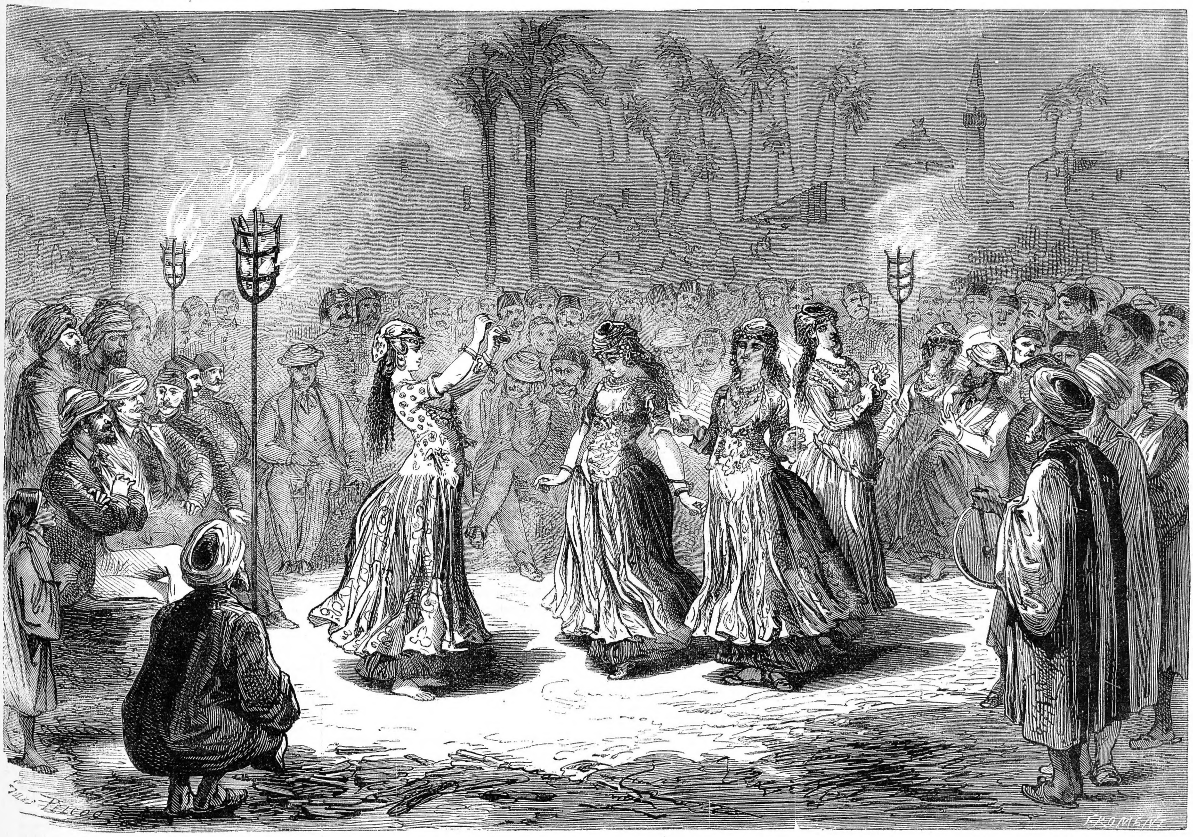

M. HENRI ROCHEFORT.

DISASTER AT BRADLEY.

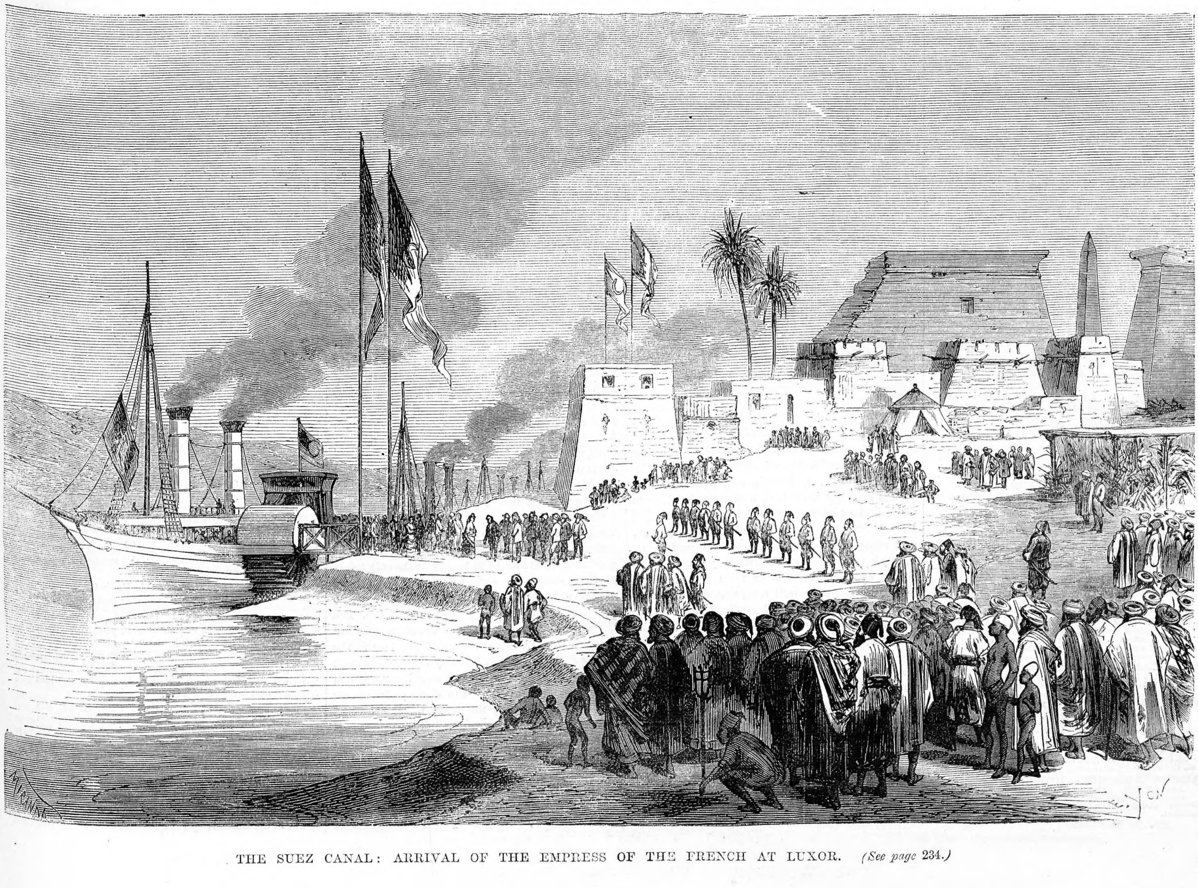
A shocking affair occurred on Friday morning at the Britannia Works (Messrs. Brereton and Co.'s), Bradley, which are situated by the side of an arm of the canal, and consist of the old and new sides. On the new side are three furnaces, working into an ordinary furnace upright egg-ended boiler, ten feet in diameter, which exploded on Friday, about eleven o'clock, causing more havoc than any similar accident in the Black Country. Viewed from a distance, the scene was very alarming. Those who hastened to the spot found that two were killed and seven badly burnt. Lying in a posture as though with the rabble-bit still in his hands, Daniel Homer, aged nineteen, of Wallbrook, an underhand puddler, was found, with his skull fractured, and his features beyond identification, amongst the hot masonry that had just before formed the setting of the boiler. Not far from him was found a stranger, supposed to be a boatman. He, too, had his head crushed, and was very much burnt. Of the seven injured people, six were lying more or less buried in the hot *débris*, all suffering from burns and scalds, some also from severe contusions, and one from terrible fractures. Under Mr. Hancox's directions, vehicles were got together and filled with straw and blankets. In these the six men, and one who had escaped to a row of cottages 150 yards away, were taken to the South Staffordshire Hospital. James Parker died after he had been in the Hospital two hours; James Higgins and Edward Oakley expired on Friday night; and James Woodhouse and John Salt on Saturday. Of the nine men injured eight died. The material loss to the proprietors of the works is trifling when compared with previous disasters. The machinery was untouched, and a hundred or two of slates will repair the damage to the roof that covers the neighbouring machinery. Some few fittings about the puddling furnaces are dismantled, the shed roofing over some neighbouring furnaces has been brought down, and in its flight the largest piece of the exploded boiler made a breach in the boundary wall of the works. This is all the material damage, for one cannot hardly count the boiler as a loss, seeing that it had been so far used up that it could not have lasted much longer. The inquest upon six of the men was opened on Monday, at the Grand Jury Room, Wolverhampton. The bodies having been identified, evidence of the explosion was given.—Benjamin Oakley, engine-tenter at the Britannia Works, had never thought the boiler dangerous; and George Hawthorne, who drove the engine on Friday, as far as he could tell, was of the same opinion. He had no one to blame for the explosion. Mr. John Thompson (W. Thompson and Son, boiler-makers, Highfields), at whose shop the boiler was made, thought extreme pressure had caused the accident. He had repaired the boiler three times in fifteen months.—Mr. G. B. Marten, Chief Engineer of the Midland Steam Boiler Inspection and Assurance Company, who examined the boiler, said—"The central tube of the boiler had collapsed—crushed inwards, and I at once drew the conclusion that that was where the explosion commenced. The plates forming the central flue were very much corroded and reduced in thickness, caused by the rusting action of the water inside the boiler. Many of the rivet heads were completely eaten away; so that, in my opinion, the central tube had become unable to bear even the working pressure of 30lbs. After the central tube had collapsed, the contents would come out at the bottom into the flue. Almost at the same instant the shock would cause the rents in the shell, and ultimately the tearing of the boiler into the eleven pieces. The rupture of the shell was an effect, and not the cause of the explosion. The cause was the collapsing of the tube. The make and shape and size of the boiler are of the usual kind. Some of the plates in the centre of the tube are as thin as $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch. The original thickness was $\frac{3}{8}$ throughout. The greater part of the central tube is very much thinner; but it was only at the edges that it could be told what the thickness really was. I presume that the thinning has been a very gradual process. Anyone could stand on the bottom of the boiler, and walk 'round the inside. To anyone so examining it, it would be clear that the rivet heads were gone." Witness thought it was dangerous to work the boiler at any pressure. He would not have assured it had it been proposed for assurance.—Thomas Johnson, boiler maker, thought that the engine not being in positive work, and the furnaces being in great heat, might have accelerated the explosion at the time the accident happened. The inquest was adjourned for a week. Later in the day the inquest was formally opened, at Bradley, upon the two deceased who were killed upon the spot. After enough evidence had been taken to permit of the remains being interred, the inquest was adjourned till after the date of the resumed inquest in Wolverhampton. The inquest upon the bodies of the two men who were killed at the time of the explosion was opened in the afternoon, at the Navigation Inn, Salop-street. The man who was not known was identified as William Jones, a puddler, of Ettingshall, by his wife, who believed he went to the works to seek a situation. The other body, that of Daniel Dawes, was identified by his brother-in-law. The inquiry was adjourned until Monday next. A subscription has been commenced for the wives and families of the unfortunate men who were killed, and we have no doubt the appeal will be generously received.

Re-sharpening Files.—A very interesting and economical process has been exhibited before the Société d'Encouragement of Paris, by M. Werdermann. Well-worn files are first carefully cleaned by means of hot water and soda; they are then placed in connexion with the positive pole of a battery, in a bath composed of forty parts of sulphuric acid, eighty parts of nitric acid, and a thousand parts of water. The negative pole is formed of a copper spiral surrounding the files, but not touching them; the coil terminates in a wire which rises toward the surface. This arrangement is the result of practical experience. When the files have been ten minutes in the bath they are taken out, washed, and dried, when the whole of the hollows will be found to have been attacked in a very sensible manner; but should the effect not be sufficient, they are replaced for the same period as before. Two operations are sometimes necessary, but rarely more. The files thus acted upon are to all experience like new ones, and are said to be good for sixty hours' work. M. Werdermann employs twelve medium Bunsen elements for his batteries.


THE SUEZ CANAL: CARAVANS PASSING THE COLOSSUS OF MEMNON. *(See page 234.)*



THE SUEZ CANAL: EGYPTIAN DANCING GIRLS. *(See page 234.)*



THE SUEZ CANAL: ARRIVAL OF THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH AT LUXOR. *(See page 234.)*

SPECIAL Advertisements inserted in this column for special rates.

NOTICE.

IN consequence of numerous Complaints from private persons and the trade, that the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS is only to be obtained with difficulty in London, Messrs. Hatton & Co., beg to state that they have this week OPENED a SPECIAL PUBLISHING OFFICE, at 33, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, under the management of Mr. R. Watson. Henceforth, all the London Agents will be supplied from that office every Friday morning, and the paper can be had there at all times. Country agents may now order through *all the London Agents*, in the same way that they order their London papers. Orders should be given early for the GRAND CHRISTMAS NUMBER, to be published on December 18.

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*** Several correspondents complain that they cannot get our paper at Euston Square Station and some other distant places. We endeavour to meet these difficulties as they arise. We would suggest to our correspondents that a quarterly subscription of 4s. 6d. will secure to them a copy regularly posted on Friday night.

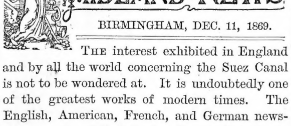
TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. M.—Yes, quite proper, and a delicate compliment that ought to be highly appreciated. In these cases one's own feelings are invariably a better guide than the stilted rules of rigid etiquette.

W. W. (Leamington).—We have in preparation a full page engraving of the local subject you name.

Fritz (Derby).—Consult your lawyer. We fear your claim is altogether a bad one.

Student (Leicester).—The subject shall have our best attention.



BIRMINGHAM, DEC. 11, 1869.

THE interest exhibited in England and by all the world concerning the Suez Canal is not to be wondered at. It is undoubtedly one of the greatest works of modern times. The English, American, French, and German newspapers sent out their best writers and artists to write and paint incidents of the opening. The French Empress had a special artist in Egypt, and some of his sketches have appeared in an English paper. The American journals print copies of their invitations from the Khedivé. The Midlands were well represented at the ceremony, and the *Illustrated Midland News* had an artist amongst the crowd of sketchers who, by this time, are almost familiar to the strange peoples on the banks of the Canal. Last week we gave an engraving of Thebes. Five and twenty ancient pins were found amongst these ruins the other day—a rare subject for the thoughtful and curious. The famous obelisk in the Place de la Concorde at Paris once stood in front of the great Temple of Thebes. It was erected originally 1550 years before Christ. England has an Eastern gift somewhere in the sands of Egypt, of equal interest and value; but the Government has not thought it worth while to send for it. We this week give three Illustrations of the Suez Canal tour, which are specially interesting.

With regard to the actual saving in distance between the West and the East by the successful completion of the Suez Canal, the *New York Albion* gives us a few figures. In a voyage from London to Calcutta, or Bombay, a vessel passing through the Canal would save about 5,000 miles, in comparison with one making the usual transit round the Cape. Or, again, taking the distance to Canton, we find the length of the various routes to be as follows:—From London to Canton, *via* Suez, is 10,000 miles; from New York to Canada, *via* Panama, is 11,500 miles, and *via* the Pacific railway, 10,500 miles; from London to Canton, *via* Pacific railway, is 13,500 miles, while from New York to Canton, *via* Suez, is 11,500 miles. Five thousand miles is certainly a considerable distance to be economized, and if the Canal can be made available to commerce generally, a complete revolution must ultimately be effected in the relations between Europe and Asia. Indeed, as we have formerly pointed out, the Suez Canal, or some other cut-off, has become an absolute necessity if England is to keep her supremacy in the trade of the East. With the East brought so near America, by the completion of the Pacific Railway and other routes still to be opened, argues our transatlantic contemporary, "New York will rapidly assume a new importance in the race for commercial greatness; but whether commercially successful or not, the Canal will ever remain a magnificent monument to French energy and capital. For long years and through much discouragement and doubt, M. de Lesseps has persevered, and has known how to infuse into French capitalists much of his own zeal and dogged perseverance. To-day he has his reward, and, amid all the pomp and circumstance of the 'opening,' the roar of cannon and the brilliancy of illuminations—among the representatives of the Great Powers of Europe, the most worthy of honour and respect is the modest, yet self-reliant, French engineer, who, by his own simultaneous nuptials, fitly crowns his successful marriage of the seas." The question of the monetary success of the undertaking is one which will soon begin to trouble our French neighbours very seriously.

THE Birmingham Town Council, which numbers among its members some experienced debaters, and which as a body is eminently mindful of the interests of the town, cannot come to a mutual understanding as to how the cost of the statue to Mr. JOSIAH MASON should be met. On a previous occasion, the Corporation decided to erect the proposed memorial to the founder of the Erdington Orphanage out of the borough rates. Nor, we think, were they unwise in coming to that conclusion. Mr. Alderman BRINSLEY, however, is of a different opinion. He contends that the statue should be erected by voluntary contributions, not out of the rates, which would be illegal. One of the clauses drawn up for the regulation of the Orphanage, empowering the Town Council to fill up vacancies in the list of governors, debars Roman Catholics from taking any part in the management of the affairs of the institution. Alderman BRINSLEY, declaring that that restriction alone is quite "sufficient to prevent the Council from defraying the cost of the statue out of rates which Roman Catholics equally with Protestants would be called on to pay," went on to pass a high compliment to the Roman Catholics, and to make the somewhat unnecessary affirmation that they cared more for the soul than the body, thus paving the way for a bit of declamation which brought him the applause of which he apparently stood in urgent need. With the exception of two "laughs" and a solitary "hear, hear," it does not appear from the newspaper reports that the gallant Alderman was honoured with any token of admiration for an eloquent address which had evidently been prepared with great care. Be this as it may, however, Alderman BRINSLEY declaimed to his heart's content. "What!" he exclaimed, "a statue to JOSIAH MASON! Why, the Orphanage itself was Mr. MASON'S statue!—(hear, hear)—and that was a statue which would cause his memory to be sufficiently cherished by following generations." We quite sympathise with the Alderman in this exclamation; but supposing the good works of good men were always to be left as the only token of their deeds, we should have no statues, no memorial institutions, no medals, no ribbons, no public recognition of high and noble actions. The Orphanage at Erdington, it is true, is a splendid mark of JOSIAH MASON'S generosity; so is the Steam Engine a memorial everywhere of GEORGE STEPHENSON; so is the Peabody Institution in London a monument of the charity of GEORGE PEABODY; but surely the nation which neglected to mark its sense of the true nobility of these men would be ungrateful. Statues and public recognitions of noble deeds encourage noble deeds, and they are graceful tributes of public appreciation. We heartily cast in our vote with the votes of the thirty gentlemen who rejected Alderman BRINSLEY'S motion, and we hope soon to hear that Mr. JOSIAH MASON has sat to the sculptor, and that before many months are over Birmingham will rank amongst its most honoured monuments the sculptured memorial to the Midland philanthropist, erected by the town to which he has presented so magnificent an institution.

THE GOSSIP.

Mr. Sothern's first novelty at the Haymarket will be a two-act comedy by Mr. H. T. Craven.

Thomas Thumb has gathered up his little family, and turned his face towards Japan.

Henry W. Longfellow has sent to the Bowdoin College Library a case of books valued at 300 dollars.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews are going to Australia.

Mrs. W. J. Florence lost 8,000 dollars worth of theatrical costumes on the way to California.

The Salt Lake Theatre was originally opened with prayer.

Tennyson and Browning are to visit America in April next.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul have made a great hit in Boston.

Mr. D. D. Home is to read in Scotland shortly. His reading tour is successful.

Eugene Sue was denied burial in consecrated ground by the Catholic clergy, but his grave is cared for by a wealthy hotel keeper at Geneva, who owns land in Savoy.

Apropos of the velocipede movement, there is a capital school for learners at Messrs. Pumphrey's, Edmund Street and Paradise Street, Birmingham.

Frank Leslie informs us that Miss Kate Bateman has been presented with a gold and diamond-studded locket by an *incog.* admirer.

Theresa and Offenbach are about to join forces, the former appearing in a new opera-bouffe-feerique, composed by Offenbach, and destined for production next year at Gaiete.

The Sisters Carry and Sara Nelson will take separate engagements in future. The former is specially engaged for the leading part in the pantomime at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle; the latter for the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Cork.

The author of "Even Betting," a novel just published by Newby, is Miss Christina Rufford ("Burke O'Farrell). It is a clever production, particularly for a first attempt.

We *(Printers' Register)* hear that Mr. A. Trollope received from his publishers, Messrs. Chapman and Hall, £3,000 for his new novel, "He Knew He was Right." The sale has been very poor, and it is said that if those gentlemen had given Mr. Trollope £2,000 and then destroyed his manuscript they would have been better off to-day.

Mr. Anthony Trollope's eldest son has been taken into partnership with Mr. F. Chapman, the representative of the well-known firm of Chapman and Hall, so that in future Mr. Trollope's books will be published by that house.

It is said that the proprietors of the *Western World* have discovered a new process which will completely revolutionise the present mode of printing in colours,—all the colours being printed at once.

Mr. H. T. Craven was offered £500 the other day by a popular comedian, to write a new piece for him.

Messrs. Edward Legge and William Mason have just completed another operetta. The subject is an imaginary incident in the Civil War time; the scene near Worcester. It is in two acts.

A provincial paper credits Shirley Brooks with the authorship of "The True Story of Mrs. Shakespeare," in the *Gentleman's Magazine!*

A new class paper is talked of for engravers and lithographers.

"Morden Grange," by Mr. Burnand, was produced at the Queen's Theatre, London, on Saturday night. It is an adaptation of Mr. Mark Lemon's story "Wait for the End."

Mr. Frederick Yonge's "Caste" company are still performing Mr. Robertson's pieces, the sole right of representing which in the provinces has been secured by Mr. Yonge. This week the members of the company are at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Punch lays his tribute on the tomb of Grisi in a touching appreciative poem:—

Art's High Priestess! at her shrine
Ne'er was truer guard than thine.
Were it Love or were it Hate,
It was thine, and it was great.
Glorious Woman—like to thee
We have seen not, nor shall see.
Lost the Love, the Hate, the Mirth—
* * *
Light upon thee lie the earth.

The lines are from one of the most graceful of graceful pens—the pen of Shirley Brooks.

A new comedy by Mr. Andrew Halliday, entitled "Marriage," will be produced at the St. James's Theatre early in 1870.

Amateurs of the Italian opera will be glad to know that M. Faure is engaged for next season, his services having been secured by Mr. Wood for a series of representations at Drury-lane Theatre. M. Faure has not been heard in England since 1866.

One of the leading historical societies in the United States has started a subscription for the purchase of a unique work in one hundred volumes, for the sum of 40,000 dollars. It is a *scissors* history of the Great Rebellion, and the cutter-out is a Mr. T. S. Townsend.

Mr. Tom Burgess, Editor of the *Leamington Spa Courier*, contributes a capital paper with illustrations on Church Decorations at Christmas-tide to one of Messrs. Routledge's publications. He also commences a series of papers illustrative of boy-life in the country. Mr. Burgess is an indefatigable writer. Besides the contributions to our Christmas literature above mentioned, he is the author of a new operetta, called "The Artist's Stratagem," the music to which is composed by Signor Aspa.

People (says the indefatigable Paris Correspondent of the *Telegraph*) are beginning to come back from the East—Eöthen travellers from Ruek—Franks who were paid for—franked, indeed, and yet, I think, had rather a rough time of it. They seem glad to be back on the boulevards. Of course, as a compliment, we speak a little Oriental language to them, and, as they all very naturally have the "grippe," we say "Marsh mallow—may your cold be better"—that, with a salaam, has been found to please several people who have lost their hat and invested in a fez.

In a postscript to a second edition of his pamphlet "The Opera and the Press," Mr. Grüneisen says, "there will be a National Opera-House, cooperating with an Italian enterprise, and there will be an extended repertory, which will comprise the productions of composers of all countries, so that a school of acting and singing may be combined, to afford the fullest encouragement to native talent. The motives which have influenced the formation of a new Opera-house are essentially patriotic. There will be no speculative joint-stock company, and the enterprise will not be in the hands of operatic traders."

NEWS OF THE MIDLANDS.

Street plates are to be put up at Brierley-hill.

In memory of the late Dr. Davies, of Pershore, a clock is to be placed in the tower of the Abbey Church, which is to be also restored.

Mr. Edmond Beales, M.A., preached twice on Sunday, at the Bath Street Methodist Chapel, Birmingham, and lectured on Monday night.

The strike of thin-coal colliers has failed. Many of the men have resumed work at the proffered advance of 3d. per day.

Mr. Campbell has been elected clerk to the magistrates for the Warwick Petty Sessional Division, vacant by the lamented death of Mr. F. Tibbits.

William E. Davis, traveller for Mr. Walsh, glass and china dealer, Birmingham, has absconded, after drawing sums amounting to more than £500.

Elizabeth Roberts, a girl of 16, was sliding on Thursday on a pool at Scotia-road, Tunstall, when, the ice breaking, several were immersed, and the girl was drowned.

Mr. A. W. Peel, M.P., addressed his constituents at Warwick on Monday night. He called the Fenians "rowdy Americans—the refuse of the American war, who came to Ireland trained in civil bloodshed."

The curacy of Welford, Stratford-upon-Avon, is vacant, worth £100 a year, patron the Rev. J. Davenport; the curacy of St. Nicholas, Warwick, is vacant, patron the Hon. and Rev. E. V. R. Powys, M.A.

Mr. Thomas Mason, Birmingham District Superintendent of the United Kingdom Telegraph Company, has been presented with an illuminated address, a telegraph box, and a purse of fifty sovereigns—the latter given by the customers, the former by the staff.

The Stratford-on-Avon correspondent of the *Leamington Spa Courier* writes: The solemn season of Advent is being most solemnly observed by the Church. At the Holy Trinity there is, and will be during the penitential period, Matins and Evensong, with silent meditation. At St. James ye Great there will be Evensong at 8 p.m., with lectures. The subjects being apposite to the occasion, the worshippers have been large and increasing.

A meeting has been held at Oxford (but not reported) of members of Convocation favourable to the removal of tests, the Dean of Christ Church in the chair. Resolutions were moved by the President of Trinity, Professor Brodie, and the Rev. C. W. Sandford, Senior Censor of Christ Church. The feeling of the meeting was in favour of a compulsory removal of tests, in preference to the permissive bill of last session.

Disgraceful Occurrence.—At a funeral at the parish church, Melton Mowbray, on Wednesday last, one of the mourners, whose name we will not expose, was drunk, and made himself very objectionable in the church, and the police having been sent for, he was at once removed to the lock-up. We are glad to be able to say that this is certainly a very unusual occurrence in Melton Mowbray on such solemn occasions.—*Lincoln Standard.*

The late Tuyere Explosion at Brierley Hill.—It will be remembered that three weeks ago a tuyere burst at Messrs. Holcroft's Level (Old) Furnaces, Brierley Hill, and that Mr. Pearson, manager of the works, was amongst the injured. We are sorry to learn that Mr. Pearson died on Sunday, after every possible attempt had been made to save him. At the inquest on Tuesday a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

Extraordinary Cases of Incendiarism in Leicestershire.—On Friday, at Leicestershire Assizes, before Mr. Justice Blackburn, John Robinson, a tramp, who pleaded guilty, was sentenced to fifteen years' penal servitude, for having created four incendiary fires at Loughborough, on the night of the 23rd September. This is one of the most extraordinary cases of incendiarism perhaps ever known. Prisoner alarmed the inhabitants about midnight by creating four fires in different parts of the town, on four different properties, and eight stacks of corn and five stacks of hay were consumed. Prisoner gave himself up on the charge, and the learned Judge said he had even boasted of having formerly created two other fires. Much of the property was uninsured.

The Medical Reform Union.—The amendment of the Medical Act was the subject of consideration on Saturday by the members of the medical profession of Birmingham and the district, at the Council Room of the Midland Institute. Dr. Bell Fletcher presided. Mr. S. Gamgee read a paper, which he prefaced by stating that the committee which was appointed at the meeting of the 20th ult. had resolved: "That it is desirable to form a Medical Reform Union on the basis of the principles embodied in the Birmingham memorial with a view to procure their Parliamentary sanction in an amended Medical Act; and that all legally qualified members of the medical profession who assent to the Birmingham memorial shall be eligible as members of the Medical Reform Union." In the course of his paper, Mr. Gamgee said: It is too much to suppose that all the medical corporations will fall in with our views at once. Old charters, historical privileges, and substantial honoraria always have had influence in retarding progressive measures, and it will be well for the profession not to be too sanguine of early victory. When the memorial shall have been presented, and the intentions of Government ascertained, it is proposed to proceed with the organisation of the Medical Reform Union; but before any step is taken in that direction a meeting of the profession will be convened with sufficient notice, and under such circumstances as shall render possible the attendance of all legally qualified practitioners, and such a free expression of their opinions as shall constitute the bond of union created by the memorial. I have submitted this statement to Dr. Bell Fletcher, and am authorised to state that it has his entire concurrence. Mr. Gamgee added that from information he had received from high official quarters, and also from the British Medical Association, it had been thought advisable not to take any further proceedings for the moment. The meeting was adjourned to a day to be fixed by the President.

The Public House Closing Acts have been adopted by the Dudley Town Council.

The Great Northern Diver "Columbus Glacialis."—We have seen two specimens of this rare visitor to the Midland counties, which were killed last week. Although in immature plumage they are fine birds. One was killed while disporting itself upon a large sheet of water on the estate of G. Ward, Esq., Wombourne, Staffordshire. It weighs 7lbs. The other was killed upon a stream running through the village of Rolleston, near Burton-on-Trent. Both specimens were sent to Mr. Franklin, taxidermist, Birmingham, for preservation, where any of our readers may examine them. We may note in passing, that the visit of such birds, so strictly oceanic in their character, to this district is somewhat surprising. Such visits take place only in very severe weather.

The Fenton Park Iron Company.—Two petitions for winding-up this Company were heard on Saturday, in the Court of Chancery, before Vice-Chancellor James. The petitions were presented by Mr. Gibson and Mr. Rowley. After an argument, his Honour decided that Mr. Gibson was only a creditor for 15s., and, as the Act did not contemplate giving a creditor for such an amount the power to enforce a winding-up, declined to make an order, and dismissed the petition with costs. Upon the hearing of the second petition, Mr. Kay, Q.C., consented to a winding-up order being made, inasmuch as the company had passed a resolution almost unanimously in favour of a winding-up. The Vice-Chancellor accordingly made an order for winding-up, with costs against the company. Mr. Greenley was appointed official liquidator.

Pretending to Hang Himself.—At the last meeting of the House Committee of the Birmingham Guardians, the Master, in his report, alluded to the case of a boy, 16 years of age, named James Collins, who, it was alleged, had attempted to hang himself during the week, after a previous similar attempt to commit suicide. The evidence of some of the witnesses showed that they had a decided impression that the boy was attempting to destroy himself, while others were equally positive that he was only pretending to do so. The boy was called in, and said that, as some of the inmates had been calling him bad names, he pretended to hang himself. He made a noose in a peculiar way, and held it in his hands, so that he could let himself down by loosing with his hands. An illustration of his performance was given by the youthful delinquent, and it appeared that he had ingeniously contrived to make it apparent that he was suspended by his neck, though in reality the noose was not tightly fastened and he held himself up by his hands. Several of the Guardians said they were clearly satisfied that the boy did not contemplate the destruction of his own life. They administered a severe caution to him not to repeat a practice calculated to cause so much alarm in the Workhouse.—A second enquiry took place into the conduct of a girl 15 years old, named Sarah Lee, who admitted that she had threatened to destroy herself, partly because she heard Collins had done so, and because she wished to go out of the Workhouse.

The Birmingham and Burton Lifeboats.—Another gallant service has been performed by the Birmingham boat. On Wednesday, at an early hour, a portion of a dismasted vessel was seen by the beachmen of Caister, near Great Yarmouth, at the back of the Scroby Sands, during a strong wind from the south-east, with signals of distress in her rigging. The large lifeboat, the *Birmingham*, at once proceeded to the wreck, which was found to consist of the upper part of a barque which had struck on the Harborough Sands. This portion had been broken away, and drifted to the spot where it was seen from the shore. The whole of the crew, numbering fourteen men, of the ship—which was found to be the *Elsinore*, of Elsinore—were clustered on this fragment of the wreck. They had been adrift for nine hours, suffering terribly from the coldness of the weather and the heavy sea. After many strenuous exertions, the crew of the lifeboat succeeded in saving all the shipwrecked sailors. The lifeboat itself was much damaged, being driven time after time against the wreck with such violence that it was feared by the crew that she would be knocked to pieces. The boat was subsequently towed into Yarmouth Harbour, where the rescued men were landed. On Thursday morning the sloop *Frances Mary Phillips*, of Inverkeithing, bound to London with a cargo of potatoes, was wrecked on the rocks at Redcar, on the Yorkshire coast. The Burton-on-Trent lifeboat was fortunately the means of saving the crew of three men.

Dreadful Crime near Nuneaton.—An investigation took place at Bulkington, near Nuneaton, on Saturday, before Mr. Dewes, District Coroner, into the circumstances of the death of a male child. A labourer, named Richard Lucas, living at Bedworth, deposed that at an early hour on the morning of the 25th ult. he and a man named John Bailey were engaged in emptying an ashpit, used by the occupants of five houses, in a court near to the parish church at Bedworth. Witness threw out the contents of the ashpit, and Bailey wheeled them away into the road. Witness noticed nothing unusual while throwing the manure out of the pit, but whilst assisting Bailey to load the wagon he came upon something "about the size of a little doll." He picked it up with his shovel, and "chucked it to Bailey.—Dr. Orton, in answer to a question from the Coroner, said the child measured 22 inches in length, and weighed from 14 to 18 lbs.—Another witness named Bailey said it was too dark to tell what it really was. When Lucas pitched it to witness he said, "Here's a kid for you." Witness answered, "What do you pitch the thing to me for?" when Lucas rejoined, "it's only a sawdust doll." Shortly afterwards the waggoner came up, and witness said to him, "There's a kid for you." This was denied by the waggoner, Henry Elgin. The medical evidence proved the child to have been born alive. In summing up the Coroner said that there had been a foul murder committed, there could be no doubt, but the question was, how, and by whom? He thought they had better leave that in the hands of the police, and return an open verdict to the effect that the murder had been committed by some person unknown.—The Jury then consulted together for a few moments, after which a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown" was recorded.

Lord Napier of Magdala has consented to distribute the prizes to the Birmingham Volunteers on the 22nd inst.

A stained glass window, to the memory of the late Baroness Windsor, is to be erected at St. Luke's Church, Headless Cross, Worcestershire.

In a recent sitting of the Legislative body, M. Rochefort (whose portrait we engrave on another page) demanded that in future the charge of guarding the Legislative Assembly should be entrusted to the National Guards. The idea was not entertained.

The members of the Birmingham "Press" Volunteer Rifle Corps held their annual dinner on Saturday evening, at the White Horse Hotel, Congreve Street. Capt. Burt presided, Ensign Lort was in the vice chair, and there was a large attendance. A first-rate dinner was served, and a very convivial evening was spent. The corps numbers nearly 100 members.

Dr. Sebastian Evans, editor of the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, lectured on Tuesday evening to the members of the Birmingham Working Men's Liberal Conservative Association, on the late Lord Derby, as a nobleman, a landlord, a statesman, and a poet. In proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Evans, Mr. G. F. Harrison said they had had a lecture on one of England's most honoured dead by one of England's most eloquent living.

With much regret we announce the death of her Royal Highness the Duchess d'Aumale, at Twickenham, on Monday afternoon, after a long illness. The decease of her Royal Highness was rather sudden, though, from the nature of the disease, this kind of death was not unexpected. The Princess Marie Caroline Augusta de Bourbon was the daughter of Prince Leopold, of Salermo. She was born in 1822, and married, in 1847, the Duc d'Aumale, who is the fourth son of the late King Louis Philippe. The Queen paid a visit of condolence to the Duc d'Aumale at Twickenham, on Tuesday.

A Coventry Libel Case.—In the Court of Queen's Bench, on Thursday, before the Lord Chief Justice and a special Jury, the case of "Marriott *v.* Pegg" was tried. The action arose out of the Coventry election, and was brought to recover damages for libel published in the *Coventry Standard*, of which defendant is proprietor. The defendant pleaded "Not guilty," and the publication of an apology. Mr. Keane, Q.C., and Mr. Carter appeared for the plaintiff; the Solicitor-General and Mr. Willis were counsel for the defendant. Mr. Marriott, the plaintiff, was a builder and contractor, of Coventry, of which city he was twice Mayor. On the occasion of the election of 1867 plaintiff, as Mayor, acted as returning officer. The libel, the subject of the action, appeared in the defendant's newspaper, and was as follows:—

> The Election Petitions.—It appears that the Judges are disposed to look over all blunders on the part of the petitioners, and to interpret everything in their favour. In the Court of Common Pleas, yesterday, it was decided that £1,000 security is sufficient for a petition against two members. Mr. Marriott and others talked about bringing disgrace on the city when they bribed Tustin, the deaf and dumb man, and others with £5 to vote for Jackson. We shall see who are the parties who bring disgrace on the city by raking up the most paltry cases to try to throw out two of the best members Coventry ever returned.

The article complained of appeared on the 23rd of January last. Plaintiff's attention was not directed to it for some days after it appeared, and he then, through his solicitor, demanded the name of the writer. An apology was inserted in the paper, but it was not thought sufficient. After the arguments were concluded, the Lord Chief Justice told the Jury that the article was undoubtedly a libel. The sole question they had to determine was the amount of damage which should be awarded to the plaintiff, in considering which they should have regard to the apology made, and arrive at the conclusion whether it was or was not such an apology as the plaintiff should have been content with. The Jury, after deliberating for some time, handed in a verdict rof the plaintiff—damages £40.

A Singular Legal Point.—A curious case came before the Wolverhampton County Court Judge on Saturday, in an action wherein Messrs. E. and C. Round, maltsters, of Tipton, for whom Mr. W. Hall, of Bilston, appeared, were the plaintiffs; and Mr. Paynton, auctioneer, of Bilston, represented by Mr. Young, who was instructed by Mr. Fellowes, of Bilston, was the defendant. It was an action in which the plaintiffs sought to recover the value of forty-eight bushels of malt, at 8s. 9d. a bushel. The malt had been bought by one Noah Welch, who, after doing business at Willenhall, took a public house at Wednesbury. While thus in business as a publican at Wednesbury he went to the plaintiffs, looked at their malt, and expressed his satisfaction with it, and ordered forty-eight bushels, agreeing to pay 8s. 9d. a bushel for it. The order was readily taken, and the malt speedily sent, with an invoice. But Noah Welch lost no time in instructing Mr. Paynton to sell the malt, with other matters and goods, at a house in Temple Street, Bilston. The sale was duly announced by placard, and the auctioneer's porter bought in the malt at 6s. 3d. a bushel. He also bought in a quantity of hops at the same time, the real purchaser in each case being the auctioneer himself, who afterwards sold malt and hops at another sale, realising a small profit by the malt, but losing by the hops. Before Mr. Paynton could pay over the balance of the produce of the sale to Welch, plaintiff got information of the use Welch was putting the malt to, and served a notice upon Paynton demanding the malt. Upon the production of a letter by Noah Welch, purporting to have been written to him by the plaintiffs, in which they offered to take £5 a month in payment for the malt, Paynton paid Welch the amount due to him upon the sale. It was contended for the plaintiffs that they were entitled to recover from Paynton on the technical ground that Welch had obtained the malt with a preconceived intention not to pay for it, and therefore had become possessed of legal property in it, entitling him to sell it to another. His Honour stopped the case before that for the plaintiffs could be completed, on the ground that as the position taken by Mr. Hall affected the character of Mr. Paynton as an auctioneer and a tradesmen, it should be tried by a jury if further proceeded with. After some discussion, it was arranged that if Mr. Hall did not abandon his suit he would give notice before January next for a jury.

PROFITABLE POULTRY.

Following that magnificent show of poultry held in Birmingham last week, it will be especially *apropos* to consider the relative value of the different breeds to the practical agriculturist. In the last volume of the Bath and West of England Society's Journal we have an exhaustive paper on the subject. The writer is Mr. Tegetmeir, who regards several of our exhibition varieties as of no use to the farmer. For example, he says:—

> As at present exhibited, Spanish fowls are not of any great importance in a practical point of view. Every useful property has been more or less sacrificed in the endeavour to produce a breed possessing an enormous development of white skin on the face and ear-lobe. Some years since the Spanish were large hardy fowls, remarkable as prolific layers of very fine eggs. At the present time they are diminished in size, and are certainly much less hardy than was formerly the case. High-class Spanish are certainly not fowls for the farmyard.

The Coloured Dorkings are large-framed birds, well adapted to produce first-rate chickens for the table. The Cochins, from their quiet domesticated habits, are good, useful birds, lay well, and produce fine chickens, but from their yellow skin and want of plumpness in the breast they do not command the first price at market. For really useful purposes, the Brahmas closely resemble Cochins. From the farmers' point of view, a cross between these makes a capital fowl. Game fowls are fair layers and good plump, though rather small, table fowls. The Pencilled Hamburghs are non-sitters, but very constant layers of small eggs. As a profitable breed, the larger Spangled Hamburghs are to be preferred; in their second and third years they cannot be surpassed as layers, and are most profitable and useful fowls, though in some localities their active habits and great powers of flight are objectionable. Polish, with their singular tufted heads, are rather to be regarded as ornamental than as farmyard stock, although in suitable localities they are advantageous, being really prolific layers. The Spangled are larger and hardier than the black variety. Of French breeds the Houdans are in some points even more useful, being much hardier and more easily reared than the La Flèche, which in this country have proved to be delicate. For a generally useful breed the Houdans have no superior: they are most prolific as layers, very good table fowls, and perfectly hardy. In suitable localities ducks are very profitable. Mr. Fowler, one of the best known exhibitors, says that £20,000 per annum is received in Aylesbury and its neighbourhood for young ducks reared for the London market. Of the two the Aylesbury are the earliest layers; if well fed, they will lay in January, the eggs are then hatched under hens, and a large number of ducklings are placed in a sheltered warm place with one of the hens, fed with meal and milk, and sent to market when seven or eight weeks old, at which time they produce from 10s. to 18s. per couple, during the early spring months."

With regard to rearing poultry for the table, the writer says:—

> During the last year or two the subject of profitable poultry breeding has attracted a considerable amount of attention at the Society of Arts and elsewhere, and a great amount of nonsense has been written and talked regarding it. The question has been mooted as to the necessity of our dependence on France for a million of eggs per day, which is less than the average imports. The speakers altogether ignore the following facts: Firstly, that a large number of poultry cannot be kept in one place without serious disease shortly breaking out amongst them; and secondly, that the farms in England are large, and that there is but one homestead to many hundred acres. In France and Ireland, on the contrary, the holdings are small, and each tenant-farmer can keep as large a number of poultry with success as the farmer who cultivates 1,000 or 1,500 acres.
>
> In advocating the more extensive cultivation of poultry, it has been stated that they can be reared at the same price per stone as beef and mutton, and that, as their market value is double, the profit on their rearing is very great. The advocates altogether ignore the facts that young fowls require eggs, bread, grits, small wheat, and other most expensive foods, and that during their whole life they have to be fed with grain, the cost price of which is out of all proportion to that of the grass and green crops upon which cattle are nourished.

Hand-fed fowls cannot be kept for less than 1d. a week for every 6 lbs. of their weight. It is easy to calculate what stall-fed cattle would be at the same price per lb. There is one great drawback to the profitable rearing of table fowls near London, namely, the want of a more direct communication between the rearers and the consumers. The middle men, or the market salesmen, swallow up a very large proportion of the profits. The producer reaps but a small return, the poulterer pays a high price, and has to reimburse himself by charging the consumers at a very exorbitant rate. Unfortunately, it is not easy to suggest how this state of things can be remedied. But the evil is one which bears heavily alike on the producers and consumers. The former are entirely in the hands of the salesman, who returns what sum he chooses for the fowls consigned to him, and the remuneration is of so poor a character that few farmers find it answer their purpose to send fowls to the London markets. Consequently, the tables of the metropolis are ill supplied, and poultry is far dearer than it should be, to the loss of all parties concerned except the salesmen.

ARTIFICIAL EYES.

To the Editor of the Illustrated Midland News.

Sir,—In reading the "Curiosities of Birmingham Industry" in your last week's impression, I see you give a description of the manufacture of artificial eyes, and being I believe the only manufacturer of artificial human eyes, perhaps you will allow me to say that the manufacture of artificial human eyes is quite a different process from that of birds, beasts, dolls, &c., and should not be classed together. Your description is correct as regards all other kinds of eyes, but should not apply to artificial human eyes, the whole process being kept an entire secret, or I would explain the difference for the information of your readers. Apologizing for trespassing on your space with these few remarks,

I remain, dear sir,

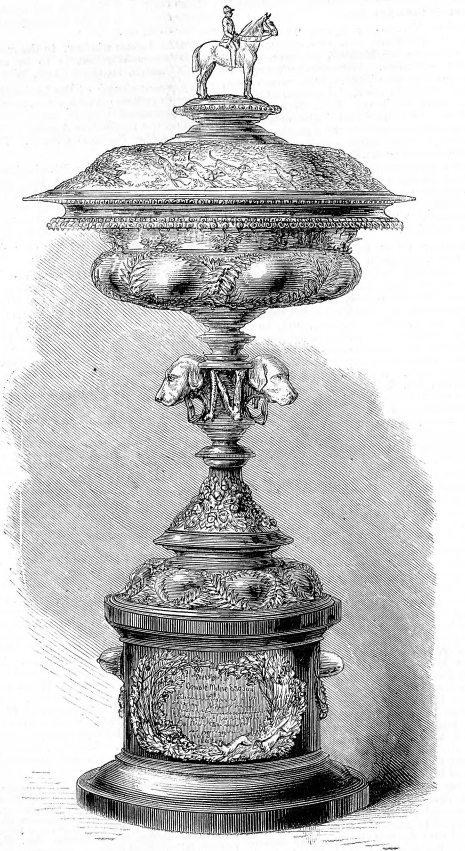
Yours respectfully,

CHARLES PACHE.

63, Lower Hurst-street, Birmingham.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE HUNT.

PRESENTATION TO MR. O. MILNE.



PRESENTATION TO MR. OSWALD MILNE, JUN., BY THE NORTH WARWICKSHIRE HUNT.

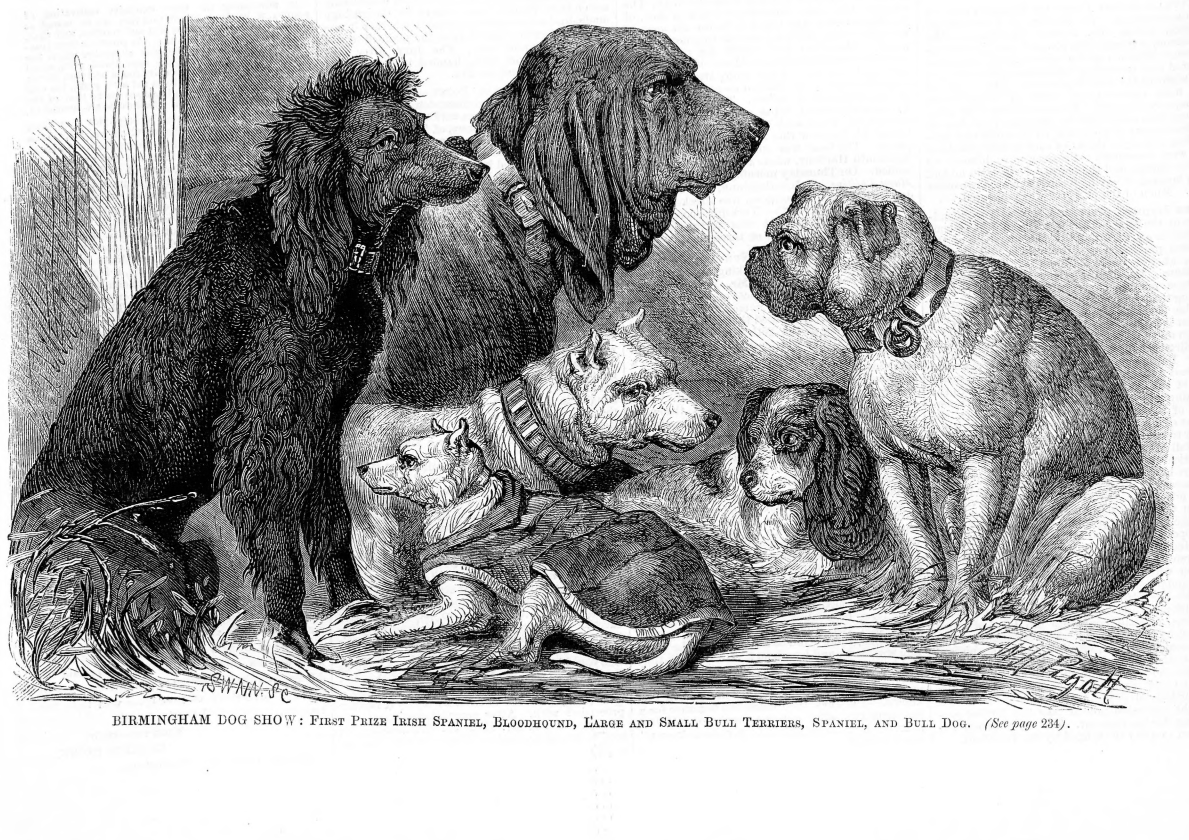
The handsome cup which we engrave in this page was presented on Thursday, the 2nd inst., to Mr. Oswald Milne, jun., on resigning the mastership of the above Hunt, which he had worthily held for six years. An ardent sportsman and an accomplished rider, Mr. Milne (says the *Leamington Courier*) combined with his other qualifications great suavity and most conciliatory manners, and his popularity was equal to his politeness. His establishment was always good, the management generally excellent, and his praiseworthy exertions were rewarded by a large degree of success. The landowners, tenant farmers, and members of the Hunt were most anxious that some substantial recognition should be made of his sportsman-like qualities. Mr. Milne having signified his wish that if such a token was to be given it might take the form of a piece of plate, the committee commissioned Mr. H. Bright, of Leamington, to design and execute an appropriate testimonial, and he has been eminently successful. The testimonial consists of a Tazza of classical form. The base is ornamented with ferns, and oak branches, from which springs the stem; midway appear the heads of the three favourite hounds —"Hazard," "Rally," and "Saffron," modelled from life, and beautifully executed in massive silver. Between the heads, and connecting them, are branches of oak forming the letters N. W. H. (North Warwickshire Hounds), and at the summit of the stem tastefully arranged fern leaves receive the bowl, which forms the body of the vase. The cover is ornamented by a representation *repoussè* in high relief of a fox chase—the hounds in full cry. All the figures in this *tableau* are portraits of well known members of the North Warwickshire Hunt, which will make the presentation doubly valuable to the worthy recipient. The whole is surmounted by an equestrian statuette of Mr. Milne and his favourite mare, modelled from life, and executed in oxidized silver. The Tazza is mounted on a stand, on each side of which are hunting trophies in burnished silver. A shield at the back carries Mr. Milne's crest and motto, and round the border of one, in front, is deeply chiselled a spirited representation of the finish of the run; the centre of the shield bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to Oswald Milne, jun., Esq., by the Landowners, Subscribers to the Hunt, and Tenant Farmers of North Warwickshire, in token of their appreciation of the liberal and sportsman-like manner in which he hunted the North Warwickshire Hounds for several years. November 2, 1869." This work of art was designed and manufactured by Mr. Bright, upon whom it reflects great credit. The horses and hounds were photographed by Mr. Briggs, and modelled by an eminent London artist. It was intended that the presentation should take place at Stoneleigh Abbey, on the opening day of the present season, but the demise of the Marquis of Westminster having necessitated a change of fixture to Kenilworth, the committee determined to postpone the presentation, which was on Thursday evening week made under the most auspicious circumstances, after a dinner served at the Regent Hotel, Leamington, in Mr. Bishop's excellent style. The chair was occupied by Mr. H. T. Boultree, of Springfield, and among the company we noticed on the chairman's right Mr. Oswald Milne; and on the left of the chairman, Mr. Lant, the present master: and among the general company were—Lord St. Lawrence, M.P., Mr. Wise, M.P., Mr. P. W. Martin, M.P., &c.

The toast of the evening, the health of Mr. Milne, was proposed by the Chairman, and received enthusiastically.

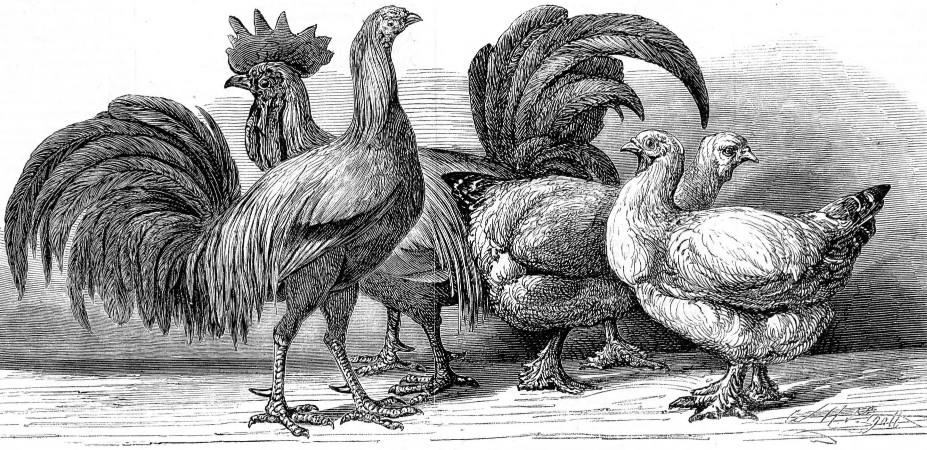
Mr. Milne, on rising to respond, was greeted with vociferous cheers. He said—I came to Leamington an entire stranger, and after having hunted the country for seven seasons, I have been invited to meet you all this evening to receive a mark of your approval and friendship. I feel that I have done little to merit this testimonial; but I have performed my duties to the best of my abilities, and it is most gratifying to receive such a recognition of my services. (Cheers.) I have made many kind and valued friends since I came amongst you, and I hope there may not anything ever occur to sever those ties. Although I have relinquished the mastership of the hounds, I trust I shall often join you in the hunting field, where all meet on terms of equality—the best man on the best horse always having the advantage. I gladly avail myself of this opportunity of thanking the landed proprietors, covert owners, and tenant farmers for the kind and cordial support which they have invariably accorded to me. I must confess that without that cordial support I could not have shown anything approaching to sport. (Applause.) The mention of one name will be a sufficient apology for my detaining you any longer. I refer to Lord Leigh. (Loud cheers.) To me his lordship has been kindness itself. He has always been most anxious to lighten, and, I may say, to sweeten my duties, as Master, and has ever been determined that his extensive covers should abound in good, old, native foxes. (Cheers.) And that determination has been attended with the happiest results. I am sure you will all join me in the fervent hope that his lordship, who is ever so ready to dispense to us his unbounded hospitality, may long be able to report his coverts filled with foxes, and be spared for many years not only to meet us all in the field, but to continue to us, and the public generally, the very many and great advantages which he allows us to enjoy. (Cheers.) I am sure you will all agree with me that indirectly fox-hunting is a great benefit to farmers; nevertheless there are times when much damage is unnecessarily done in a thoughtless manner to their crops and fences. (Hear, hear.) All hunting men are deeply indebted to the tenant farmers for their great patience and forbearance on those occasions. (Applause.) Permit me to say a few words with reference to the future of the Hunt. You have a new master and a new huntsman; and I hope you will kindly extend to them that support which was invariably extended to me. You will find both of them quite up to the mark, and well able to grapple with any difficulties that may present themselves. (Applause.) But you have it in your power to render them valuable assistance, and I hope you will discourage as much as possible the practice of over-riding hounds. (Hear, hear.) You will agree with me that generally those who do the most mischief in the field are those who subscribe little or nothing in support of any pack of hounds. I hope our beautiful town of Leamington may continue to offer as many attractions to fox-hunters as heretofore, and that the members of the Hunt will enjoy even better sport under the new master than they did under my mastership. (Loud applause.) I am sure Mr. Lant will do his best to show good sport, and I think there is every prospect of a brilliant season. (Cheers.) I am exceedingly obliged to you for the very kind and hospitable reception you have given me to-night, and for the handsome testimonial which you have presented to me as a token of your satisfaction with my efforts. I beg you all to accept my most sincere and heartfelt thanks. (Loud cheers).

Several other toasts were given.

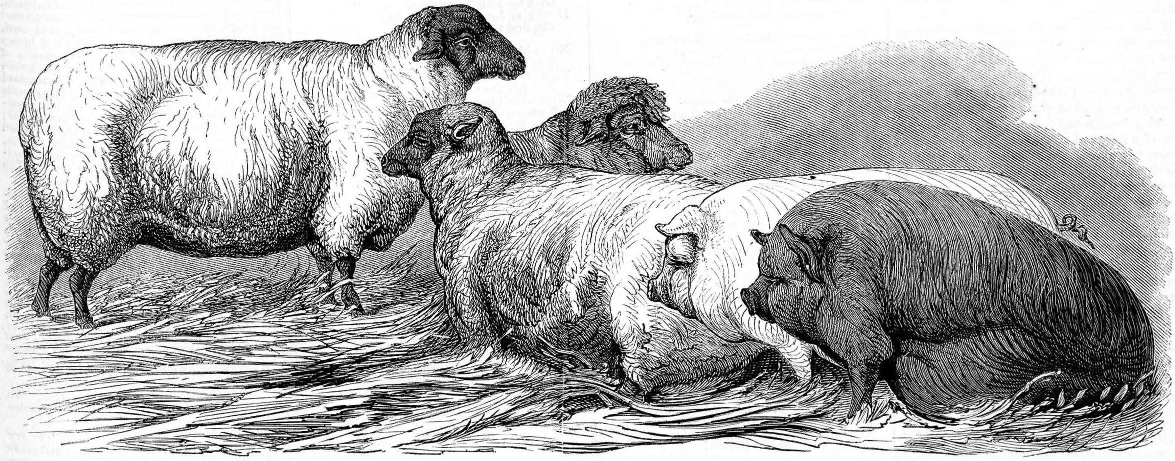
Mr. Newdegate, M.P., on Teetotalism.—The Aston Manor Licensed Victuallers' Society held their annual dinner on Thursday night. Mr. C. N. Newdegate presided, and read a letter which he had received from the Birmingham Auxiliary of the United Kingdom Alliance, rebuking him for associating himself with publicans. He read his own reply to the letter, and proceeded to say—This was the first time he had received any intimation of the kind. It happened that in defending the organisation which they represented, and the trade in which they bore so respectable a part, he last year mentioned in the House of Commons that, great as was Father Matthew's success in Ireland in preventing excessive drinking, which at that time disgraced the country, it was only temporary, and that the organisation formed for the prosecution of Father Matthew's laudable project was afterwards used for political purposes. It was used for the purposes of the repeal agitation, which plunged Ireland into a state of discord hardly less lamentable than that which at present exists. Mr. Newdegate proceeded to express his continued admiration of the objects of this society, which were those of an insurance and friendly society. Theirs was a trade which needed security for their families. He was ready to consult with them in reference to the laws relating to the issue of licenses to public houses, and the issue of licenses for the traffic in beer, and the issue of licenses for refreshment houses. He thought those licenses should be brought within such reasonable compass that the licensed victuallers ought not to be injured in their business, restricted as it was by the supervision of the magistrates, and regulated by the interference of the police. He believed there was in the hands of the licensed victuallers a great social and moral power. They were constantly being brought into contact with their neighbours, and his belief was that the landlord who said to his neighbour, "There, now, the good woman will be waiting for you at home—another glass will do you no good," preached a sermon more effectively than half the eloquence which adorned the pulpit.



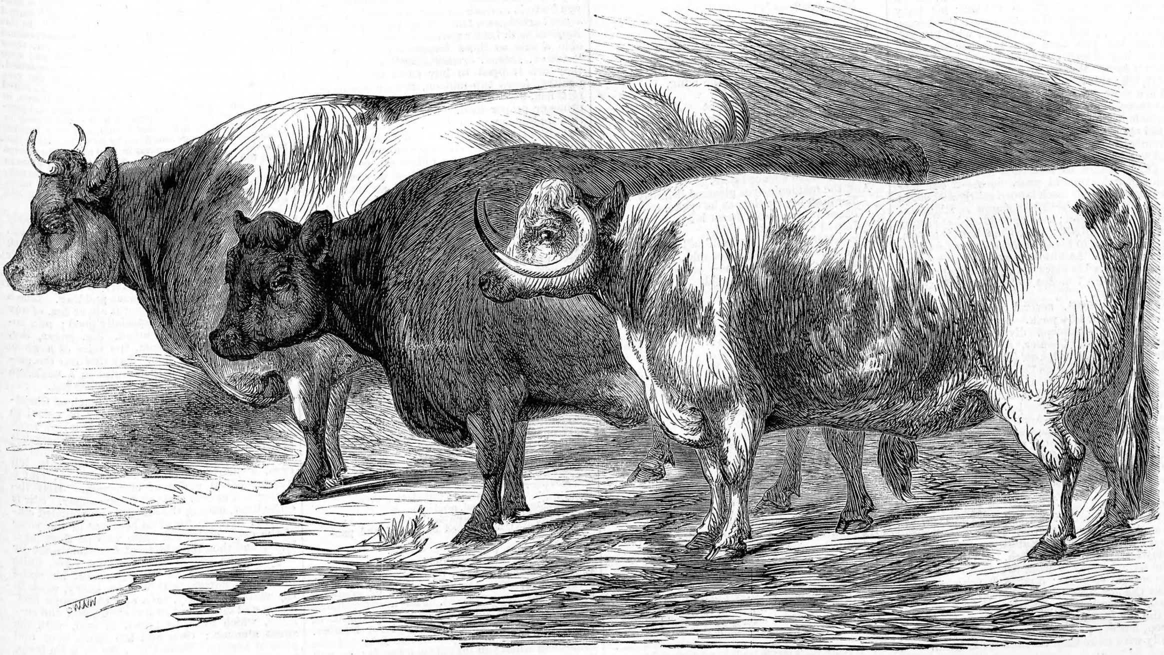
BIRMINGHAM DOG SHOW: First Prize Irish Spaniel, Bloodhound, Large and Small Bull Terriers, Spaniel, and Bull Dog. *(See page 234).*



BIRMINGHAM POULTRY SHOW: Group of Prize Fowls. *(See page 234).*



BIRMINGHAM CATTLE SHOW: First Prize Sheep. First Prize Pigs. *(See page 234).*



BIRMINGHAM CATTLE SHOW: First Prize Short-Horn Heifer. First Prize Scotch Ox. First Prize Long-Horn Steer. *(See page 234).*

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

The opening day at Croydon was productive of very large fields and excellent sport; but the "splendid shilling" did not muster in sufficient force to gladden the managerial heart. Moose (12st.), who was made such a warm favourite for the Grand National last year, beat a field of eighteen for the Steward's Plate, the two miles and a half being evidently far more to his taste than the long course at Liverpool. Brick (11st. 10lbs.) was beaten for the first time this season in the Grand National Hurdle Race; but Cristal (10st. 5lbs.), who ran badly at Shrewsbury, had been so highly tried that Holman had little hope of success, and it is reported that Lord Poulett wins £6,000 on the race. The next event compensated Mr. Morgan for his disappointment, as Lord Waldegrave, who never goes to a meeting without scoring a win, disposed of ten others very easily; and Buxton wound up the day by carrying off a Hunter's Stakes. In spite of a hard frost, we persuaded ourselves that the Grand Metropolitan would be brought off on Wednesday, and journeyed down to Croydon. For more than two hours we had to amuse ourselves by watching the performance of the purse trick, which was rather more dreary than usual, as there seemed to be about three professors to each "flat," and the joyous "sold again!" was seldom heard. The management, with the awful alternative of returning the money staring it in the face, ran off the Hurdle Race. This was followed by a scratch two mile flat race, entitled a "Scurry Welter." No one troubled to enquire how a two mile race could possibly be a "scurry," and after another made up race "over five flights of hurdles," the crowd went home in the best possible humour.

It was very evident there could be no more racing that week, and the Grand Metropolitan was postponed till Monday last. It did not improve with keeping, as neither Pearl Diver nor Brick ran. Chevy Chase was suddenly made favourite, and when Gardener was apparently winning, both he and Scarrington went the wrong side of a post, and allowed Mr. Brayley's second string to come in alone. The fields throughout the day were very small, and the other races need no comment.

Colonel Astley's stud was sold at Tattersall's on Monday last. Twenty-eight lots were knocked down, and averaged about 128 guineas. This must be considered a very satisfactory result, as the season of the year is dead against the seller, and the horses on the whole were a very moderate lot. The uncertain Provider (500 guineas) was the highest priced one, and fetched far more than his value; but Stephanotis (300 guineas) and Scarbro' (200 guineas) were decided bargains. The nine yearlings (warranted untried) only realised 490 guineas, but they were unfashionably bred; the top price, 140 guineas, was made by a King John—Gossamer colt.

The annual table of winning sires has just appeared. Thormanby heads the list with £15,776, an amount that contrasts badly with the £30,888 which was won by Buccaneer's progeny last year. Adventurer, thanks to Pretender, runs Thormanby very close with £15,385, but he has only twelve winners of twenty-eight races, against the twenty-one winners of fifty-eight races of Mr. Merry's old favourite. The deceased Newminster is third for the second year in succession, but he has fallen from £19,822 to £14,060; his forty winners have carried off ninety races. Beadsman, as was the case last year, is fourth, with £13,597, and this has just been put together by seven horses; indeed only one of his progeny has failed to win a race. Maccaroni has risen from £3,542 to £13,133; this result is mainly due to Frivolity, and is a most creditable total for so young a sire. Buccaneer, the "exile," having no two-year-olds to help him, has sunk to £11,970; and the £8,805 opposite the name of St. Albans shows a movement in the wrong direction. "Emperor" Stockwell has "fallen from his high estate," and his £8,269 makes us look back to 1866, the Lord Lyon and Achievement year, when—if our memory serves us—his stock landed nearly £60,000 in stakes. King Tom's £8,105, shows a slight increase on last season; and Blair Athol has sprung from £310 to £6,926; more than half this sum, however, is due to Scottish Queen's very dubious One Thousand. Lambton, in spite of being such a cripple, keeps his place well, but Knight of St. Patrick, with no Tenedos to help him, has found his proper level.

Despite the frost, several coursing meetings were brought off last week. At Ripon, Vauban, by Vicissitude—Success, divided the Newby Stakes with Clock Cleaner, a dog of unknown pedigree. At the Bridekirk (Cumberland) meeting, Brigade, by Brigadier—Java, beat Confidence, by Cauld Kail—High Idea, in the final course of the Bridekirk Cup, but though she won she did not show her usual cleverness. Saucy Jane, by Cauld Kail—Achievement, won the Penrith Stakes for puppies at the Penrith Open Meeting; and the Lowther Cup, for all ages, fell to Bannersdale, by Coastguard—Curiosity. Hares were very plentiful at this meeting, and the snow lay so thickly on the ground that the hard frost was of no consequence.

Since amateurs have devoted so much time to athletic sports, professional runners and walkers have sunk to a very low ebb; but a feat performed by George Davison, at Hackney Wick, on Monday last, deserves mention. He attempted, for the second time, to walk twenty-one miles in three consecutive hours; a performance which no one but the late Charles Westhall has ever satisfactorily accomplished. That celebrated pedestrian did the distance, with 59 seconds to spare. Davison, however, quite eclipsed this, and walked in easily with more than six minutes in hand.

BALLAD OF BENTLEY HALL.

I.

Brave Captain Lane of Bentley
By his trusty sword he swore,
That Charles, King of England,
Should suffer wrong no more:
By his trusty sword he swore it
On that direful battle-day,
When Worcester plain was red with slain,
Low fallen in the fray.

East and west, and north and south,
The vanquished foemen fled;
But Charles the King to Boscobel
With wondrous haste he sped.
There in the old oak branches
He gave his foes full sport;
At "hide and seek" the Roundheads sleek
He dodged at Moseley Court.

"Now hither bring our truant King,"
Said Lane, "ere twilight fall,
And let him share my humble fare
'Neath the roof of Bentley Hall;
For my arm is true and trusty,
And my heart is leal and brave,
And I'll spare not wife, nor limb, nor life,
Our lord the King to save!"

So at noon of night they brought him
Along the toilsome way,
And they passed through quaint old *Wedgefield*,
(All asleep the people lay.)
"O town of traps!"[*] they whispered,
"Your fame our foes will sing,
For they fain would try a trap to buy
To catch our lord the King!"

And they passed through quaint old Willenhall,
The town of locks and keys,
Where all was still, save Charles's heart,
And that was ill at ease.
"O town of locks" they whispered,
"Your choicest sample bring,
For we would fain a lock obtain,
Which foes might try to pick in vain,
Whose bolt and ward would surely guard
Our sovereign lord the King!"

They passed the ancient Market Cross,
And the homestead of the Squire;
And they passed St. Giles's temple,
Upon those ancient spire
A cock of golden plumage
Watched o'er the little town—
('Twas long before that fated morn
When one in Darlastonia born
Came with a whistle and tried wi' corn
To tempt the bright bird down).

Old Wil'nall was a hamlet then,
As fair as one might see,
Its locksmiths plied their curious art
Under some spreading tree.
No discounts ever plagued them,
Their price nor fell nor rose,
Their lives were like the river Tame,
Unchanging as it flows;
At eve they lit their snow-white pipes
And news of battle told:
For locksmiths lived like brothers
In the brave days of old!

II.

"Welcome, my lord, to Bentley!"
Said the Captain, with a smile,
"Your strength is spent, now rest, content
To tarry here awhile."
"Nay, friend," quoth he, "I fain would flee
While yet I have a chance;
To-morrow I'll ride to Severn side,
And take a boat to France!"

Then outspake brave Sir Roger
(A Worcester knight was he),
"Pray let me ride at thy right side,
To Bristol by the sea:"
And then outspake Sir Gifford
(Of Chillington was he),
"Let me abide at thy left side,
Most gracious Majesty!"

Then spake the Captain's daughter
(A maiden brave was she),
"On every man at battle time
Foes look suspiciously,
Then prithee let *me* tend the King,
Let no one go beside,
And if along our hasty flight
By Roundheads we're espied,
They'll guess tis a lord and lady
For pleasaunce out to ride."

None answered, till the monarch
The sudden silence broke,
And the maiden's eyes gleamed brightly
Through her ringlets as he spoke,
"These auburn locks, sweet lady,
Joined to a heart so bold,
Are better than all the Will'nall locks
That ever were bought or sold,
For *they* are made of iron—
But these are made of gold.

Your offer is the bravest,
You shall my champion be,
No danger shall befall me
In my journey to the sea;
But not as lord and lady—
We were an ill-matched pair;
So I will be the serving-man,
And you the lady fair."

At twilight hour they started,
Each on a milk-white steed;
And a troop of Roundheads passed them by,
Riding at furious speed.
Their curses on King Charles's fate
Fell on his listening ear,
His craven heart did beat and start—
He faltered in the rear:
"How now!" she cried, and raised her whip,
Well feigning furious rage,
"Take that!" and dealt a tingling blow,
"You laggard lazy page!"

Now when the Roundheads saw her,
They halted on their track,
And those behind cried "Forward,"
And those before cried "Back;"
For they ne'er had seen so fair a maid
Deal out so brave a thwack.

No sooner had the lady's whip
Inflamed the page's ear,
Than raised the troop a rapturous cry,
And e'en the horses prancing high
Could scarce forbear to cheer!

Away the Roundheads started,
When the lady's rage was o'er,
And their ranting and their revelling
Grew louder than before.
They went, not dreaming that the page
In that unequal match
Was Charles, King of England,
Whom they were sent to catch!

The page and lady journey'd
By garden, lawn, and lea,
And the King forgot his danger
In the maiden's company;
And he turned and whispered softly,
Whispered softly in her ear,
The Roundhead crew I heed not,
With so bold a Cavalier.
Of all my gallant heroes
Who have fought by land or sea,
I know who bears the bravest heart—
Sweet lady, thou art she!
And of all the names I cherish,
And round my heart entwine,
I know whose clings the closest—
Sweet lady, it is thine!"

The King had spoken truly
When he spake at Bentley Hall,
For though they rode at morning's prime
And rode at evening's fall,
She was his guardian angel,
Nor sought she for repose
Till ocean's tide divided wide
The monarch and his foes.

III.

O Stafford! prize your daughters,
So fair, so brave, so true;
They flourished in the old time,
They flourish in the new!
But let no modern damsel
Look up with jealous face
If we give Jane Lane of Bentley
The first and foremost place.

No maid in battle story
Was half so brave as she,
Then let us chant her glory
Through the years that are to be;
We couldn't raise a monument
Perhaps, if we were to try;
But on St. Stephen's palace walls,
Emblazoned fair and high,
Her portrait hangs unto this day
To witness if I lie!

When tempting booths at Waketime
Block up each square and street,
When by the tavern ingle bright
Convivial spirits meet,
When Boards of Health assemble
To patch the parish laws,
When the factory girls play "hop-scotch"
And the lads are shooting "taws,"
When heedless curates are entrapp'd
By damsels at *croquet*,
When fiery forges roar by night
And belch black clouds by day,—
On Dudley Hill, by Severn side,
In Bentley hamlet small,
Through England's borders far and wide,
In cot, and house, and hall:
With weeping and with laughter
Still is the story told,
How well Jane Lane preserved the King
In the brave days of old!

J. C. Tildesley.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

Dr. Kitchiner's Rules for Marketing.—The best rule for marketing is to pay ready money for everything, *and to deal with the most respectable tradesmen* in your neighbourhood. If you leave it to their integrity to supply you with a good article at a fair market price, you will be supplied with better provisions, and at as reasonable a rate as those *bargain-hunters* who trot "*around, around, around-about*" a market until they are trapped to buy some *unchewable* old poultry, *tough* tup-mutton, *stringy* cow-beef, or *stale* fish, at a very little less than the price of prime or proper food. With *savings* like these they toddle home in triumph, cackling all the way, like a goose that has got ankle deep into good luck. All the skill of the most accomplished cook will avail nothing unless she is furnished with prime provisions. The best way to procure these is to deal with shops of an established character: you may appear to pay, perhaps, ten per cent. more than you would were you to deal with those who pretend to sell cheap, but you would be much more than in that proportion better served. If you think a tradesman has imposed upon you, never use a second word, if the first will not do, nor drop the least hint of an imposition; the only method to induce him to make an abatement is the hope of future favors; pay the demand and deal with him no more; but do not let him see that you are displeased, or as soon as you are out of sight your reputation will suffer as much as your pocket has. Before you go to market, look over your larder, and consider well what things are wanting—especially on a Saturday. No well-regulated family can suffer a disorderly caterer to be jumping in and out to make purchases on a Sunday morning. You will be enabled to manage much better if you will make out a bill of fare for the next week on the Saturday before; for example, for a family of half-a-dozen—

Sunday—Roast beef and pudding.
Monday—Fowl, what was left of pudding fried or warmed in the Dutch oven.
Tuesday—Calf's head, apple pie.
Wednesday—Leg of mutton.
Thursday—Ditto broiled or hashed, and pancakes.
Friday—Fish, pudding.
Saturday—Fish, or eggs and bacon.

It is an excellent plan to have certain things on certain days. When your butcher or poulterer knows what you will want, he has a better chance of doing his best for you; and never think of ordering beef for roasting except for Sunday. When you order meat, poultry, or fish, tell the tradesman when you intend to dress it: he will then have it in his power to serve you with provision that will do him credit, which the finest meat, &c., in the world will never do, unless it has been kept a proper time to be ripe and tender. *Kitchiner's Cook's Oracle.*

A Valuable Receipt.—A correspondent writes to the *Philadelphia Ledger* that six years' experience has convinced him that a coat of gum copal varnish applied to the soles of boots and shoes, and repeated as it dries until the pores are filled and the surface shines like polished mahogany, will make the soles waterproof, and also cause them to last three times as long as ordinary soles.

To Recover Frozen Plants.—The *Gardener's Magazine* gives its readers a seasonable hint with regard to the recovery of frozen plants:—As with the best precautions valuable plants will sometimes get wholly or partially frozen, a word of advice may now be useful all the winter through. To recover frozen plants, the safest procedure is to keep them in the dark till they thaw, and to let the thawing take place slowly. A dark still air is also essential; a frozen plant placed in a draught, in the sunshine, or in undue warmth, even if in darkness, will probably go to a pulp as soon as it is completely thawed; but if thawed slowly in dark and stillness, will recover, if the freezing has been only to a moderate degree.

Shopping in Birmingham.—It is undoubtedly a good town for shopping. As a rule prices are moderate; but the incessant pestering of the assistants in drapers' shops to sell what you do not want to buy is a crying grievance. A few extra remnants, some damaged goods, or cheap handkerchiefs may be got off in this way; but as a rule tradesmen, I am sure, suffer by this great exhibition of anxiety to sell. At all events a customer should not be troubled until she has bought all she meant to buy; and even then it is very annoying to be urged and pressed to buy things that you do not want. Seeing that you have devoted a portion of your paper to subjects interesting to ladies, I venture to send you this note.—A Young Wife.

Chutney.—Recently chutney seems to have come into almost general use through the pretty little bottles of the Italian warehousemen. Here is an excellent receipt for its manufacture: One pound of salt, one pound of mustard seed, one pound of stoned raisins, one pound of brown sugar, twelve ounces of garlic, six ounces of cayenne pepper, two quarts of unripe gooseberries, two quarts of best vinegar. The mustard seed gently dried and bruised; the sugar made a syrup with a pint of the vinegar; the gooseberries dried and boiled in a quart of the vinegar; the garlic to be well bruised in a mortar. When cold gradually mix the whole in a large mortar, and with the remaining vinegar thoroughly amalgamate them. To be tied down close. The longer it is kept the better it will become.

How to make Good Servants.—Although society is undoubtedly pestered with hundreds of bad servants, whom no amount of kindness will improve, mistresses may often blame themselves for the miseries they endure at the hands of their domestics. *Enquire Within* gives the following receipt for obtaining good servants:—

> Let them observe in your conduct to others just the qualities and virtues that you desire they should possess and practise as respects you. Be uniformly kind and gentle. If you reprove, do so with reason and with temper. Be respectable, and you will be respected by them. Be kind and you will meet with kindness from them. Consider their interests and they will consider yours. A friend in a servant is no contemptible thing. Be to every servant a friend; and heartless indeed will be the servant who does not warm in love to you.

This is very pretty and in the main true. We recommend the receipt, but do not guarantee that it will *always* be successful.

Sausages.—Why is it "the thing" to cry down sausages? They are cheap, when well made they are wholesome, and, eaten in conjunction with Turkey, fowls, or boiled rabbit, there are few edibles more relishable. The subject is considered worthy a place in the *Athenæum*, where we find the following:—

> The earliest authority given in Todd's Johnson for "sausage"—Richardson does not notice the word—is Baret's 'Alvearie,' 1580 A.D., "a pudding called a sawsege." Todd also says that the contents are "stuffed into skins, and sometimes only rolled in flour." In this he is doubtless right, as early makers of sausages cannot all have had skins at hand to put them in. But these savoury edibles were made long before 1580, and were called *weasels*, whose long thin bodies they resembled. A recipe for making these *weasels* is given in the very curious 'Liber Cure Cocorum,' of about 1450 A.D., edited for the Philological Society by Mr. Richard Morris, in 1862: "First grind pork, temper it with eggs and powder of pepper and canel; close it in a capon's neck or a pig's paunch (or gut), roast it well, and then varnish it with batter of eggs and flour, to serve in hall or else in bower." *Haggis* was made in 1450 too, as the receipt for it follows that for *weasels*: Sheeps' hearts, kidneys and bowels were boiled, chopped-up with parsley, hyssop, savory, suet, pepper and eggs,—with mint, thyme, and sage also in winter,—then boiled again and sprinkled with salt.

We are approaching Christmas, when everbody is reconnoitring for something especially nice. Housekeepers may, therefore, think it worth while to make a cutting of the above for their Cookery-book.

Bakewell Pudding.—Here is an excellent receipt for this most delicious pudding. Line a dish with paste, and lay over it about 3oz. of any preserve, strawberry is especially good; mix together 6oz. of grated bread, 3oz. sugar, 3oz. butter, melted to a cream, the juice of a whole and rind of half a lemon. Lay this over the preserve, and bake twenty minutes in a moderate oven. It is as good cold as it is when hot.

Yule Cakes.—With the approach of Christmas, a receipt for yule cake may be useful to many of our readers: Take one pound of fresh butter, one pound and a half of flour, two pounds of currants, a glass of brandy, one pound of sweetmeats, two ounces of sweet almonds, ten eggs, a quarter of an ounce of allspice, and a quarter of an ounce of cinnamon. Melt the butter to a cream, and put in the sugar. Stir it quite light, adding the allspice and pounded cinnamon; in a quarter of an hour put in the yolks of the eggs, and work them two or three at a time; and then the whites of the same must by this time be beaten into a strong snow, quite ready to work in. As the paste must not stand to chill the butter, or it will be heavy, work in the whites gradually, then add the orange peel, lemon and citron, cut in fine strips, and the currants, which must be mixed in well, with the sweet almonds; then add the sifted flour and glass of brandy. Bake this cake in a tin hoop, in a hot oven for three hours, and put twelve sheets of paper under it to keep it from burning.

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[*] Wednesfield's staple trade is rat-trap making.

NOTES ON THE JOURNALS.

There is every indication of a hard winter. What that means to the poor and indigent everyone knows—short hours of work, reduced wages, sickness induced by lack of food, starvation times. It may be a trite saying, but it still needs frequent mention, that at such a season as this we should all consider the best way in which to help those who want our assistance, and who without it are exposed either to the tender mercies of workhouse officials, or to the cold and wet of the streets. At Sheffield the poor are to be supplied during the winter with soup made from Australian meat. This salted meat is to be procured for fourpence a pound; "and it is calculated that from this and potatoes, &c., good soup can be made at twopence per pound." The Sheffield poor, however, will not be asked to pay more than one penny for a pound of this soup; for there happens to exist a fund of £200, the surplus of a subscription made two years ago for a similar purpose. How many are there out of the 300,000 inhabitants of Birmingham and the large populations of Nottingham, Leicester, Derby, and the other Midland centres of industry, who would not be glad of Australian salted meat at fourpence a pound, with good wholesome soup supplied for one penny a pound? At least, cannot *something* be done for the poor of the Midlands this bitter weather?

There is a good old custom existing in the country—in town, too, for that matter—which we call by the good old name of carol-singing. There are also of the season, seasonable certain gentlemen whom we, as our forefathers did before us, term "The Waits." Now, confessing our regard for these and other ancient customs, we should be the very last to raise our voice against either the Carollers or their more ambitious brethren the Waits. To lie in bed on Christmas Eve, or, not to be too precise, let us say any night in the Christmas week, and to be awakened in the stillness of the early morning by the sound of sackbut, psaltery, and harp, or their modern equivalents, is a delightful sensation, and one that we fear spoils by much repetition. But to have dinned into your ears, five or six weeks before the Twenty-fifth day of December some polka or dance music of the most trashy description, goes a great way towards making us thankful that Christmas does come but once a year in reality, though the Waits, with their performances, which cannot be called "most musical," while like the nightingale's note they are unquestionably "most melancholy," do their best to make us believe that Christmas begins when autumn ends. As for the Carollers, we heard them a month ago in more than one Midland town, singing "There was a ship came sailing by"—a famous old carol it is, too—and the other melodies in their *repertoire*. Well, well, dear brothers and sisters who ride in cozy carriages, and are covered with rugs to keep away rheumatism from your genteel persons, and are possessed of a plenty of gold and silver, and never have known what it is to go supperless to bed—let us not be too hard upon these little singers and musicians; for have we not been told in most musical verse that—

He prayeth best who loveth best
  All things, both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us
  He made and loveth all.

A wholesome lesson, we take it, and one to be remembered especially in this Advent season.

Without entering into the merits of either, which would be quite foreign to this column, we may put upon record the fact that there have been two cases of extraordinary interest both to Church and to people. The Court of Arches has deprived the Rev. J. J. Merest of the living of Upton Snodsbury, Worcestershire, for simoniacal dealings; and the Consistory Court of York has declared that the Rev. Mr. Voysey can no longer hold preferment in the Church of England whilst professing his present opinions. Mr. Merest intends to appeal against the sentence of the Dean of Arches that for ever prevents him from entering the priesthood of the Church of England. This we cannot but think a most unwise course to pursue, especially after the disclosures made at Worcester. Mr. Voysey's case is even more serious; he is "deprived" for holding heretical opinions. He denies the divinity of Jesus Christ, and asserts that our worship of the Second Person is nothing less than idolatrous. The sooner men holding such opinions as these leave the Church the better.

Will a word in memory of the Duchess d'Aumale be out of place in our "Notes?" Elsewhere we record the death of the Royal Princess of the House of Orleans who has just died at Twickenham, after a very painful illness. The Duchess was getting better daily until the morning of her fatal seizure, when her husband, who had been riding out to Bushey Park to inform his relatives of the improvement in the Royal lady's health, was summoned to the sick chamber just in time to see the last of his beloved wife. The Princesses of the ex-Royal Family of France, when driven into exile by the events of '48, bore their altered fortunes with a serene fortitude which entitles them to our admiration. Of the Princess who now lies dead at Twickenham, it may be said that she possessed the regard and esteem of all who knew her. Her best-loved home was Woodnorton, near Worcester; and all that county will mourn her loss with a sincerity which only affection could inspire.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

When Davy perfected his safety lamp the coal owners of the North subscribed a testimonial to him, which took the form of a service of plate, value £2,500. And when Sir Humphry made his will, he ordered that this service should eventually be sold, and the proceeds be invested as a fund for a medal to be given once a year "for the most important discovery in chemistry in Europe or Anglo-America." The annual value of the available dividend is estimated at £30—a good lump of gold to make a medal of. The Royal Society has undertaken the award of this prize. The same society has, in common with four others, received a bequest of £1,300 from the late Benjamin Oliveira, one of its Fellows. The money is to be spent upon a great telescope for astronomical researches requiring high optical power. The instrument is to be lent to industrious amateurs unable to procure such an expensive tool for themselves. Mr. Huggins, already famous for his spectroscopic observations on celestial objects, is to have the first use of it, and he will, we believe, employ it upon measures of the heat of stars, a subject about which we may hear much by and bye. We are already hearing much about the heat of the moon; every month brings us some new report of further researches into this troublesome branch of astronomical enquiry. The general idea is that the light of the moon brings with it a very feeble amount of heat; but there is evidence of a little more lunar warmth that is not luminous: that is solar heat which has first been absorbed by the moon and then radiated towards us by the heated crust of our satellite.

Padre Secchi, the Roman astronomer, finds a curious anomaly in the light of the planet Neptune. As a planet illuminated by the solar beams it ought to send us light identical in all respects with the sun's; but analysis shows that by their reflection at the earth's surface, the solar rays are in a measure modified, some of them being absorbed and others intensified. The suspicion is that this modification is due to a peculiar physical condition of the planet. Is it conceivable that it is not yet a matured world, but something intermediate between a planet and a nebula? The suspicion is strengthened by the fact that the body when viewed telescopically under the best circumstances does not present a clean, sharp disc: its edge all around is fuzzy, as if it were a sphere of vaporous matter.

A new form of barometer has been brought into the meteorological instrument market by Messrs. Adie and Co., of Edinburgh. In appearance it resembles a thermometer; it has a tube six or eight inches long terminated by a broad flat bulb filled with red-coloured spirit. The glass of this bulb is so thin that it yields to varying pressures of the atmosphere; and as it is pushed inwards or released it drives up or lets fall the spirit which is in the tube. The alterations of this spirit-index are indicated by a scale fixed alongside the tube, and divided into inches to make the readings comparable with those of our ordinary mercurial barometer. It will be seen that the principle of this instrument is similar to that upon which the *aneroid* is based.

Throw a little scrap of camphor into a dish of warm water and it spins and darts about like a thing of life. The cause of this motion has been a sort of scientific enigma for a couple of centuries, all the great physicists having touched upon and tried to explain it. One ascribed the phenomenon to electricity, another to surface attraction, another to the formation of an atmosphere of elastic fluid round the camphor, and to the impact of such fluid on the air, another to the emission of vapour from the gum, which vapour disturbs the stillness of the surface water, another to the reaction produced by heat-repelling epipolic currents which are formed near the small fragments of the volatile substance, especially near its points or angular parts. Mr. Tomlinson passes the numerous theories in review in the current number of the *Philosophical Magazine*, and he sums up by explaining the camphoric notions and those of kindred substances (for camphor is not the only one that exhibits the peculiar movement) by the following proposition:—"When on the surface of a liquid, A, we deposit a small fragment of a solid, B, which is more or less soluble in A, or detaches from its surface matter that is so, the equilibrium of the superficial layer of A is disturbed. If the solution take place equally all round the fragment, this does not move; if unequally in different azimuths, the fragment displays sudden movements of translation and rotation."

The amelioration or maturation of wine is an important matter to French wine growers, and proposals are constantly being made of methods for securing it. The latest novelty is to apply electricity to the purpose. An accident suggested the application. The house of a grower in Digne was struck by lightning, and the electric fluid descending to the cellars, burst a butt of wine, and the liquor was spilled, though the greater part of it ran into a reservoir sunk in the ground purposely to catch accidental leakings. The proprietor, thinking the wine deteriorated, began to sell it at ten centimes a litre; but, upon tasting it, he discovered the flavour improved by the accident, and he raised the price sixfold. The circumstance was mentioned to a scientific man; he suggested that the electricity had exerted some subtle influence over the grape juice, and proposed a direct experiment to try the point. Accordingly a galvanic battery was made to pass through a tun of wine for a short time, and the liquor, at first hard and undrinkable, became soft and agreeable in flavour. Another vintager to whom the subject was mentioned, had a butt of red Moselle of mediocre quality in his cellar. He electrized it for a month, and it was transferred into excellent liquor. The process is simple enough: it merely consists in placing two plates of metal, preferably platinum, into the wine, and connecting them with the opposite poles of a galvanic battery for some days. Will this new "dodge" help the manufacture of "fine old wines?"

THE ORIGINATOR OF PETROLEUM OIL WELLS.—The *Wall Street Journal* says that Mr. Drake, who put down the first petroleum oil well in America, and who at one time was worth £200,000, recently died in the poor-house. The first derrick and engine still stand over the well, and are carefully preserved. "A monument is to be erected to his memory, which will contain a room in which the engine is to be placed."

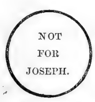
OCCASIONAL LETTERS.

Dear Mr. Editor,—The other day I made a curious discovery at Leamington. I found out a veritable Temple of Love. It is in no way akin to Brother Prince's abode in Somersetshire. On the contrary, at the Leamington establishment every encouragement is given to courtship and marriage. Cupid reigns here supreme. Indeed, I may say Mrs. and Mr. Cupid. Psyche is a matron with attendant goddesses. They live in an atmosphere of the sweetest perfumes. Roses, and violets, and lilies, and harebells strew their path from garret to basement. The establishment is occupied in the manufacture of Cupid's darts. Such arrows, Mr. Editor, so exquisitely feathered, such tender insinuating perforators of the human heart. And there were sufficient to bring down all the pretty girls and sighing swains in the Midland Counties.

Have you not often wondered where all the valentines come from? I never thought to find that thousands of these seductive missives are made in Leamington. Birmingham, it is said, makes everything. I don't think this includes valentines, though some of the little details are made in the Hardware Village. For example, did any of your readers receive last Valentine's Day a more than ordinarily memorable embossed and scented package? "Truth" was inscribed on the exterior. On the next page was the invitation, "Come share with me my happy home," the persuasive effect of which was heightened by the picture of a charming cottage. Then, covering something very suggestive of a wedding ring, was an extract from a famous poet—

"Would you draw fair Eden nearer,
  And to earth the angels bring,
You must seek the magic mirror
  Of a golden wedding ring.

The lady of a certain age who opened this, and got thus far, might perhaps be pardoned for feeling a sudden but tender interest in the sender. She would turn over this last leaf, with those sweet words, upon it, to discover:—



Yes, Sir, a wedding ring, with that balladic bit of slang in the centre. That was one of the "sells" of last Valentine's Day. The rings were made in Birmingham; the burlesque valentine was manufactured at Leamington. It is to be followed this year with a packet of "patent cement," a special manufacture for uniting hands, if not hearts, in an unbreakable bond that nothing can sever. In addition to valentines, this little manufactory produces the majority of the birthday and other cards, the "Christmas greetings" and "Happy New Years" which have become so popular during the last few years. The latest production is a folding card containing figure subjects cut and arranged so as to form striking foregrounds for set landscapes. The works exhibit remarkable taste, and I have to thank Messrs. Bollans and Co. for a very interesting hour. They succeeded Messrs. Goode, who started the manufacture of valentines at Leamington forty years ago. Some of the pictorial foundations of the best valentines come from Germany. Rimmell, of London, has them in rare perfection. His Almanac is a fine example of taste and skill.

At Leamington, and abroad, too, women are chiefly engaged in the manufacture of valentines. The satin ornaments are painted by ladies in all parts of the country. Messrs. Bollans themselves have contributors throughout the Midlands. What is the individual moral effect of their work upon the girls themselves—those I saw gumming cupids' wings and roses, sticking painted doves upon painted nests? Is cynicism, or enthusiasm, the result of these labours behind the scenes of the great feast of February? Custom had blunted one of their seven senses at all events. They could not smell the sweet scent that pervaded the house. Has familiarity made them equally obtuse in the matter of doves and loves and sighing swains? I do not think so. The woman's instinct is too strong for that. Even Asmodeo had difficulties to contend with on that score.

By the way in your engraving of Leamington Church you forgot to say that it was taken from a photograph by Wilson, of this place. This artist, who devotes himself to landscape subjects, has recently invented a new tint. The *British Journal of Photography* has noticed it in high terms of praise. It is an adaptation of the stereoscopic slide for the magic lantern. A transparency that would be excellent for the stereoscope would, from its intensity, be nearly worthless for the lantern. A picture only three and a quarter inches square, which is to be magnified forty or fifty times in its linear dimensions, ought to be singularly perfect, and to abound in every good quality that a photograph should possess. Some lantern transparencies by Mr. Alexander Wilson, fully realise the *Journal's* conception of what good photographic transparencies ought to be. The subjects were for the most part cathedrals, both interiors and exteriors; and the solidity with which these noble fanes are projected in all their sharpness and detail sometimes render you oblivious of the fact that you are gazing upon a dissolving view and not upon the reality. Photography is evidently well understood at Leamington. Mr. Briggs has some fine portrait examples.

Hunting is an important feature of the social economy of Leamington. The North Warwickshire hounds are familiar in all parts of the district. Last week the resignation of Mr. Milne, jun. as master, was signalised by a grand banquet and presentation. Mr. Plant succeeds to the command, and promises a continuance of the excellent sport of the past. There are plenty of foxes—that will be a comfort to many of my country friends. The owners of coverts and the farmers of the neighbourhood are staunch supporters of the Hunt. They will appreciate your article last week on "The Chase," as they did your recent picture of the Kenilworth meet.

The *Leamington Courier* (which is ably conducted by Mr. Tom Burgess, who is well known in boys' and other literature) makes an excellent suggestion, which I hope by this time is carried out. It is to flood the Pump Room gardens for skating. The authorities have held back this year because the flooding was once a failure, owing to the frost disappearing at the wrong moment. I am not Mr. Plant of Birmingham, nor do I belong to the weather department of the Admiralty, but I will promise the Leamington authorities some good clean ice if they flood the gardens at once.

If you will entrust me with one of your artists next summer and a roving commission you shall have a sketch of "Society" at Leamington. Meanwhile, look for me in a less fashionable but none the less important town.

Yours * * * *

Leamington.

POLICE AND LAW COURTS.

THEFT BY A BIRMINGHAM TRADESMAN.

Last week we reported the case of Jeffrey Babb, a Birmingham blacking manufacturer, who had been charged with stealing a scarf, worth half-a-crown, from the shop of Mr. Gould, draper, Warwick. The prisoner, who was remanded, was on Friday sentenced to two months imprisonment.

MOCK AUCTIONS.

The Liverpool magistrates are doing their best to put a stop to the mock auctions that are so numerous both in the country and in London. One of these swindlers was found guilty in August last of defrauding a woman of 26s., but as he gave notice of appeal sentence was deferred. The verdict of the jury was confirmed by the court above, and on Saturday the mock auctioneer was sentenced to penal servitude for seven years; nor can we consider the sentence too heavy.

"HARD TIMES" INDEED!

At the Brentford Petty Sessions on Saturday, Frederick Chambers, a fish hawker, was charged on remand with being found on the grounds of Orleans House, Twickenham, the residence of the Duke of Aumale, for the supposed purpose of committing a felony. The prisoner and another man who escaped were found concealed near the poultry-house, the one having a long pole in his hand and the other a folding net. The prisoner in defence said that he was only trying to catch a few blackbirds and thrushes. Times were bad, and he must do something for a living. There being nothing against his character except a conviction eight years ago for stealing apples, the chairman of the bench said they would punish him for trespass only, and committed him to prison for a month.

RAILWAY ROBBERS.

Robberies on railways are becoming more and more frequent. On Saturday five men and two women were charged before the borough magistrates at Shrewsbury with stealing fourteen woollen shawls, seventy-seven yards of check shirting, and forty yards of brown holland, the property of the London and North Western Railway Company. The shawls and shirting formed part of a quantity of goods that had been sent "on approbation" by Messrs. Rylands, of Manchester, to Messrs. Miles and Norgrove, drapers, Leominster, and, not being approved, they were with other things returned. The railway truck which contained them arrived at Shrewsbury on Sunday morning, November 7th, and remained upon a siding just outside the station till shortly before noon on the Monday following, during which period the "truss" which contained the goods was broken open, and the shawls and shirting stolen. One of the prisoners was discharged; the others were remanded.

HORRIBLE CRUELTY IN LEICESTERSHIRE.

Seldom has a more fiendish act been perpetrated than that below recorded of William *alias* "Nutty" Miles, a poultry dealer, who was charged on Saturday at the Leicester County Police-office with brutally ill-treating a dog and cat, at Rearsby, on the 30th ult. Mr. Haxby, who appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, asked that the prisoner might be sent to gaol without the option of a fine. In the first case the prisoner, who had been to Melton Market, on returning stopped at the Horse and Groom Inn, Rearsby. He was much the worse for liquor. After being there a short time he picked up a small dog, which was lying on the hearth, and threw it on the fire, which was burning brightly. The dog was got off the fire, and it appeared to suffer much. When remonstrated with, defendant said "he would burn all such chaney-faced —— all to bits." Defendant subsequently picked up a kitten, which he hid behind his back until the landlord had left the room. He then went to the boiler, which was full of boiling water, lifted up the lid, put the cat in, and held the lid down. When taken out, which was as soon as possible, the cat was quite dead.—The magistrates committed the defendant to gaol for six months with hard labour (three months in each case) without the option of a fine.

A CAUTION TO SWEETHEARTS!

An interesting case has just come before the Court of Exchequer. "Yule v. Richardson" was an action for breach of promise of marriage. The plaintiff, Miss Emma Yule, a lady now 31 years of age, lives with her mother, who has been for some time in infirm health, and a widowed sister, at Peckham. The defendant, who is considerably the junior of the plaintiff, is a clerk in the London and Liverpool Insurance Company. The parties became acquainted somewhat accidentally in the year 1862, the fact being that the defendant, who was then 18 years of age, encountered the plaintiff in the Old Kent-road walking with a lady friend, and he there and then introduced himself. This introduction was quickly followed up by the opening of a correspondence, which was ultimately very protracted and voluminous. No less than 57 letters of the defendant's were put in as evidence. In one letter he hoped plaintiff (who was then at Margate) did not allow any gentleman with whom she happened to dance at the Hall-by-the-Sea to see her home. "If you do," he mysteriously wrote, "I trust there is no good bye!" In most of defendant's letters to plaintiff were "stars," to represent kisses. Being removed to the Liverpool office of the Insurance Company, defendant in one of his numerous effusions wrote thus: "What do you think, my dear? I have now come to one conclusion, and that is, if I stay down here, and cannot get a birth in London, I am determined to get spliced—that is, to get married—and have a house and other comforts. Be sure and let me have your opinion by return of post on this proposition of mine." On another occasion he wrote: "I am truly sorry to hear you are so miserable. If I only get another appointment in London you will be able to judge for yourself whether I shall keep the promise which I gave you on leaving town, when you know how melancholy I was. Hoping you are as jolly as possible, I enclose a large supply of (a number of stars), which I hope will be acceptable. With love, I remain your affectionate brother, but hope, before long, h——." The learned counsel said he believed this was the first letter of husband. Writing from Boulogne he said, "I left Paris yesterday. It is a very gay place, where a fellow can enjoy himself for some time. I went to the Bois de Boulogne, which is a large wood with some splendid lovers' walks, just fit for you and me. As to the bathing at Boulogne, it is very jolly to go into the sea with some nice girls. If you were here we would both bathe together. I know you would consider it a great honour if I ventured on the experiment." The plaintiff's evidence was to the effect that defendant visited her almost daily in London and twice when he was at Liverpool; that he gave her presents including an engaged ring; and promised to marry her. He became cool subsequently, and they quarrelled. His excuse for breaking off the engagement was that they were not suited for each other. The jury found for the plaintiff—damages, £500.

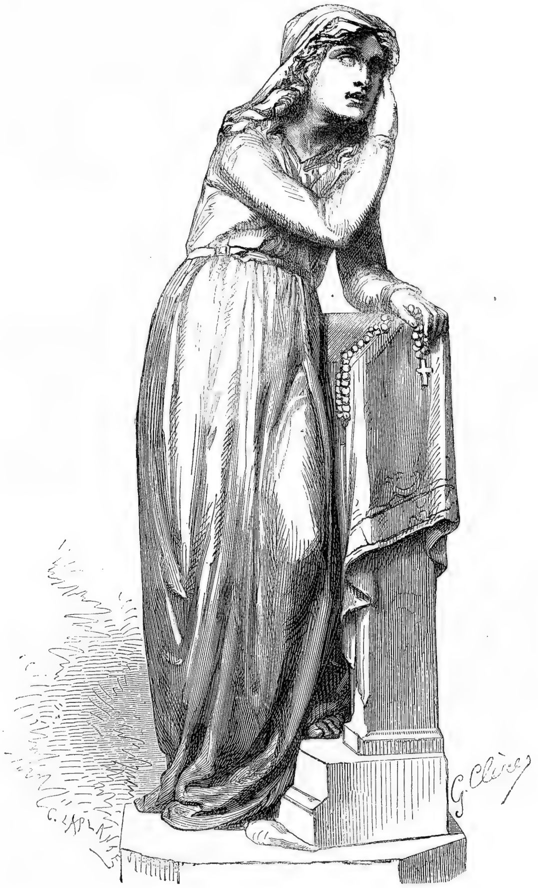
Mr. Reichenheim, banker at Berlin, has offered to the Jewish community of that city the sum of 250,000 thalers for the erection of an orphanage.

Roots grown with Henry Webb and Co's combined Manures obtained a Prize last week at Birmingham; and also recently at the Ross and Monmouth Agricultural Shows.

EXTRAORDINARY CURE OF A COUGH BY POWELL'S BALSAM OF ANNISEED.—"Her Majesty's Gun Boat, "Netley," Wick, North East Coast of Scotland, 7th September, 1868.—Dear Sir,—Having had a most distressing and severe cough, which caused me many sleepless nights and restless days, I was recommended by his Lordship, the Earl of Caithness, to try your most invaluable Balsam of Anniseed, and I can assure you, with the first dose I found immediate relief, even without having to suspend my various duties; and the first small bottle completely cured me; therefore I have the greatest confidence in fully recommending it to the million. Most respectfully yours, W. LINZEL, H.M.G.B. "Netley,"—To Mr. Powell. POWELL'S BALSAM OF ANNISEED can be had of all Chemists. In Bottles at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 3d. Warehouse, 16, Blackfriars Road, London. Ask for "POWELL'S BALSAM OF ANNISEED." [267

SCULPTURE.

We this week engrave another souvenir of the Exhibition of Sculpture at the French Academy. It is a favourite subject—Joan of Arc. Many artists have painted the wonderful maiden, and many sculptors have modelled her; but few have given so chaste and delicate a representation of this great historic character as Monsieur Clère. He represents the girl listening to the supernatural voice, which whispered the wonderful mission confided to her. She has been seeking guidance in prayer, consolation in religious exercises. Again the unseen Voice speaks, and she is convinced of its reality. The sculptor has pourtrayed the earnestness and sublimity of the young girl's inspiration with poetic power and rare truthfulness. The *pose* of the figure is perfect; the lineaments of the expressive face, the folds of the drapery are done almost with a painter's regard for detail. It is indeed a picture in marble, full of grace and beauty, and one which we commend to the attention of art students.



JOAN OF ARC.—*FROM A STATUE IN MARBLE BY G. CLÈRE.*

JUDGING AND JUDGES.

There should undoubtedly be a ring for judging the dogs at Birmingham. The *Field* suggests it, and we agree with our dog-learned contemporary. Some of our readers may also endorse his remarks upon the result of the recent judging:—

"On the whole it may be said that less dissatisfaction than usual has been expressed by the exhibitors with the judging at the recent Birmingham Dog Show; and in most instances where a difference of opinion has been held it has been admitted that the blame, if any, does not rest with the judges, but with the absence of law to guide them. It is true that in the most remarkable instance of mistake (as it is allowed to be even by one of the two judges), that of the champion Gordon Setters, this excuse will not apply; for, even on that score, nothing in our opinion can account for the placing of Reuben above Shot, and we believe all impartial persons who saw the two dogs but Lord Garvagh, who maintained his original opinion, will agree with us. In the other disputed judgments, as, for example, in the placing of Baron above Roll in the champion English Setters, in the disqualification of Alp in the rough St. Bernards, and in the ranking of Monk above Jungfrau in the smooth ones, the absence of a scale of points was probably the cause of the mistakes, supposing such to have really occurred, and the same may be said of the Fox Terrier decisions. In these latter cases it is alleged that the competing dogs were so close together, that it is a "toss up" which is the better of two animals when examined without a scale of points to serve as a guide, because in almost all such cases different judges will form a different scale of the value of a good head, for instance, as compared with a good back—or of the presence or absence of some particular point relied on with more or less pertinacity by different individuals. Thus, in the scale of awsti nopnedoh bgoDdliyt National Club, the absence of dewclaws in the St. Bernard dog is calculated at 10 points out of 100, and, *cæteris paribus*, the dog without them would be passed by. But Lord Garvagh, who was specially selected to judge this class at Birmingham, makes their absence an absolute disqualification, whatever may be the degree of perfection in the other points displayed.

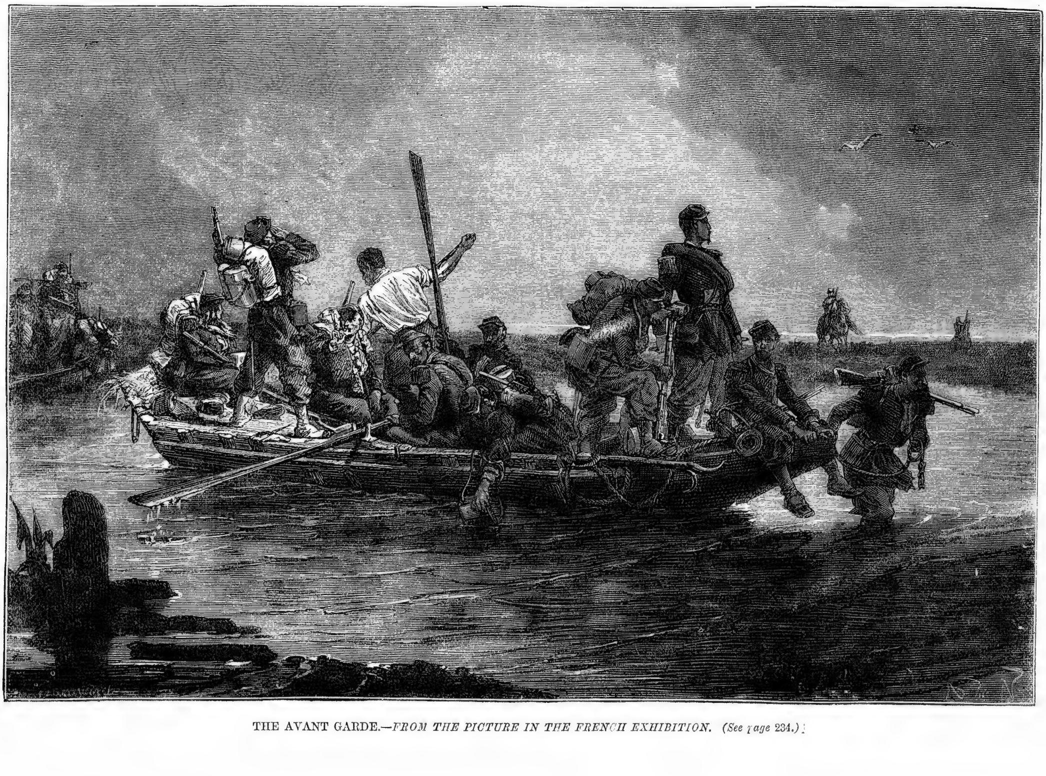
"We have so repeatedly insisted on the necessity of adopting a scale of points for the guidance of judges that we need not further dwell upon it, and we only now allude to it because of the remarkable instances which we have quoted above confirmatory of our opinion. That dissatisfied exhibitors will ever be contented we do not for one moment imagine; but that they have cause to grumble so long as there is no law for their guidance, and for that of the judges, we are, and long have been, prepared to contend."

The writer is no doubt "Stonehenge," an authority on dogs. He is necessarily nothing unless critical. How far he is right or wrong we leave to better judges than ourselves, or it would seem to the judges themselves. Our Sporting Correspondent may have something to say upon the subject next week.

Heaped Measures.—The Birmingham Markets and Fairs Committee make an important announcement. By an Act passed in the reign of William IV., sales by heaped measure were prohibited under a penalty of forty shillings; but the practice has, nevertheless, continued in Birmingham and elsewhere, to the frequent loss, it is alleged, of purchasers. Shopkeepers, hawkers, and others are now warned that sales by heaped measure are illegal, and henceforth articles (including fruit, vegetables, &c.) which have been so disposed of must be sold in Birmingham only by weight.

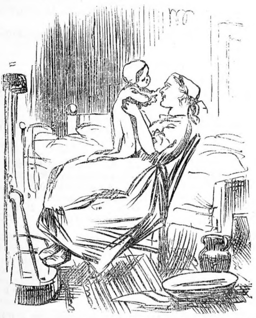
Saturday Night.—Saturday night makes people human—writes some weary labourer of the mart. It sets human hearts to beating softly, as they used to do before the world turned them into war drums and jarred them to pieces with tattoes. The ledger closes with a clash, the iron-doored vaults come to with a bang, up go the shutters with a will, click goes the key in the lock. It is Saturday night, and business breathes free again. Homeward, ho! The door that has been ajar all the week gently closes behind him, the world is all shut out. Shut out? Shut in rather. Here are his treasures after all, and not in the vault, and not in the book—save the record in the old family Bible—and not in the bank. May be you are a bachelor, frosty and forty. Then, poor fellow, Saturday night is nothing to you, just as you are nothing to anybody. Get a wife, blue-eyed or black-eyed; but, above all, true-eyed. Get a little home—no matter how little—a sofa, just to hold two, or two and a half, and then get the two, or two and a half in it, of a Saturday night, and then read this paragraph by the light of your wife's eyes, and thank God and take courage.

A Lost Nation.—A writer in the *Natal Mercury* treating of the ruins of Simbaoe, says:—"A day's march from Andowa, between two hills, at the end of a vast and fertile valley, are the ruins of Axum. To this day incredible flights of stone steps conduct the traveller up the summits of the hills, in one of which are found deep grottoes and vast halls, cut out of the rock and ornamented with columns. There, according to traditions of the country, is the tomb of the Queen of Saba. The adjoining valley, shaded by majestic trees, is filled by the remains of the city, consisting of huge blocks of stone. Very little of the *débris* reveal their former purpose. There may, however, be distinguished two groups of fourteen or fifteen obelisks, thrown down. Seven of them are covered with ornaments, and are not less than thirty-six feet in length. These master pieces of ancient architecture reveal to us the fact of an ancient civilization in the heart of Africa, which has disappeared again thousands of years since. Niebuhr tells us of a mighty Abyssinian empire existing here, mentioning in particular Saba, and says it was so powerful that even the Roman and Parthian strength could not prevail against it. This last statement was taken from a Greek inscription found among the ruins, engraved in stone. On the reverse side is another engraving, in some ancient language, which has not yet been deciphered. The savage tribes guard these ruins with jealous care. No living animal is allowed to be killed in them, no tree permitted to be destroyed, everything connected with them being held sacred, as belonging either to a good or evil power. A missionary, who penetrated within a short distance of the ruins, writes: 'In the country were also found some very old guns, in a hole in the mountain. We got one of the locks of these guns, and found it to have a wheel outside, with cogs or teeth; and a tradition exists that they came from these ruins. The Basutos often tell us, when asked if they acknowledg God, about the big stones in the Banyai, where all created things are to be seen, even sphinxes, pyramidal-shaped buildings, and catacombs.'"



THE AVANT GARDE.—*FROM THE PICTURE IN THE FRENCH EXHIBITION.* (*See page 234.*)

INCIDENTS OF THE WEEK.



An important meeting has been held in the Theatre of the Midland Institute, on the subject of "Boarding-out Pauper children," and to consider the advisability of its local adoption. We *(Birmingham Gazette)* have frequently advocated this plan, proving its advantages, and showing the success which has attended the system whereever it has been adopted. The strongest grounds of opposition to the proposal have been made by comparing it with baby-farming and parish apprenticeship; but to neither of these objectionable practices has it the slightest resemblance. At the meeting of the Social Science Congress at Bristol, in October last, a paper on this subject was read by Miss Florence Hill, in which she forcibly summarised the points of difference, or "rather of absolute antagonism between baby-farming and boarding." Miss Hill says:—

"The former plan crowds many infants under the care of a single nurse. Boarding-out places one infant only in the care of one foster-mother.

"Boarding-out seeks before all things to preserve life. Baby-farming rarely cares to save—often it actually desires to destroy; babies being farmed-out, much (as has been shrewdly observed) as fully insured ships are sent to sea, in the hope that they may founder.

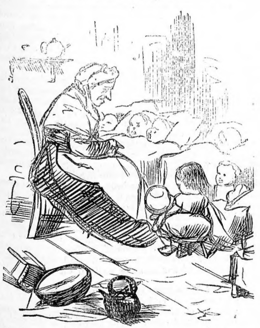
"Baby-farming assembles many infants under one roof—in itself a prolific source of disease. Boarding-out distributes them singly in families, according to the law of nature, which is synonymous with the law of health.

"Baby-farming is undertaken for the sake of profit alone. In boarding-out the foster-parent is invited to share in a benevolent action; profit, if considered at all, is a minor object, and the payment offered is so regulated as to prevent the children being taken as a source of gain.

"Baby-farming strives for all possible secrecy, Boarding-out challenges the utmost publicity.

"Baby-farming is in the hands of those whose character is rarely even doubtful—often abominable. Boarding-out is entrusted to those whose characters are above suspicion.

"Baby farming withdraws itself from inspection. Boarding-out involves, as an essential feature, close and constant supervision."



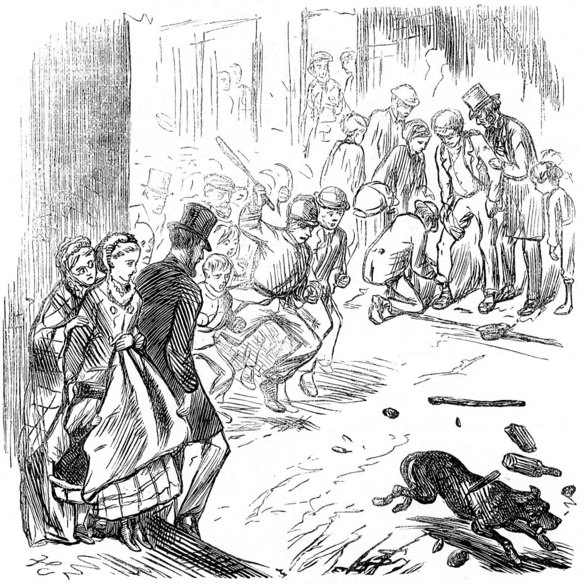
A Clergyman Sued by a Tailor.—On Friday, in the Court of Exchequer, before the Lord Chief Baron and a special jury, an action was brought by Mr. David Jones, tailor, Leamington, against the Rev. John Craig, vicar of that town, to recover £20 14s. 3d., for clothes supplied. It appeared that business transactions had been going on for a length of time between the parties. From 1862 up to 1868 plaintiff never received any payment, though he called several times at the vicar's house, where he was frequently told that the reverend gentleman was in London. When he did see him, Mr. Craig faithfully promised payment, but failed in carrying out his promise. The claim was admitted, and a verdict was entered for the plaintiff.

Death in a Prison.—Dr. Lankester has held an inquiry at the Clerkenwell House of Correction, respecting the death of Joseph Dickenson. On the 17th ultimo deceased knocked at a door in New Brentwood, and told a policeman he had done so that he might get a night's lodging in a police-station. Next day he was brought up before the magistrates at Brentford Petty Sessions, and sentenced to a month's imprisonment. He was in a very weak state, and was removed to the House of Correction in the prison van. After evidence had been adduced to prove these facts the jury returned the following verdict: "We find that the deceased Joseph Dickenson died from the mortal effects of Bright's disease of the kidneys, diarrhœa, and inflammation of the lungs, accelerated by his travelling from Brentford to the House of Correction; and we are of opinion that sufficient attention was not paid to the deceased before his removal to the prison."

A correspondent of the *Inverness Courier* states that gold has been found in the parish of Abernethy. The exact locality is not as yet given out by the discoverer, but he is said to be a man who is capable of judging of the possibility of gold being found.

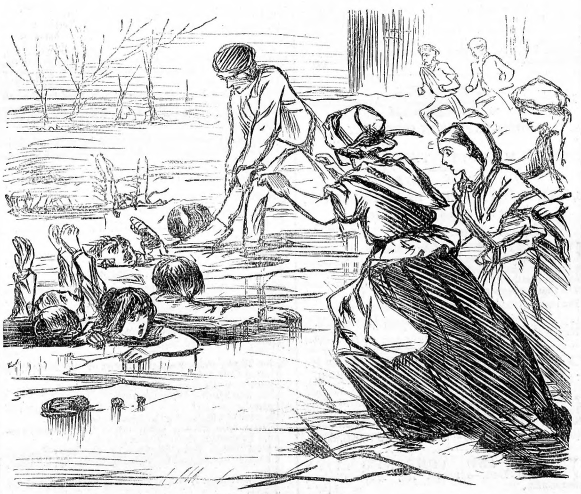
The late Fire at Wolverhampton.—One of the Jury writes to a contemporary as follows:—"Now the inquest held upon the bodies of those burnt at the above is concluded, it cannot be out of place, and may, perhaps, do good, to ask the following question:—How is it that the Inspector of Factories did not examine into the fact of such a large quantity of inflammable spirit being kept in such a dangerous place, and also give orders that it should be removed to some proper place; and also prevent mere children, which the deceased were, from drawing it, more particularly by artificial light?"

Fashionable Marriage.—On Saturday were celebrated, at St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square, London, the nuptials of Captain Henry A. B. Coventry with Evelyn Mary Bredenell Bruce, widow of Lord Ernest Bruce, and second daughter of the late Earl Craven. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Charles A. Johnson, officiating incumbent. The bride was given away by her brother, Earl Craven, and Mr. Percy Barker acted as "best man" to the bridegroom. We are glad to see that the practice of "quiet weddings," now coming into fashion, was followed in the above instance.



MAD DOG AT DERBY.

The town of Derby was in a state of great excitement on Saturday evening, in consequence of a large black dog making its appearance in the principal streets in a mad state, and biting no less than twenty individuals. All are going on as well as can be expected, though in many cases the injuries are of a most serious character. The dog, unfortunately escaped. A large black and white dog, somewhat answering the description of the one at Derby, passed through Kegworth on Sunday morning, and bit two persons. It then went on to Loughborough, where it bit several persons. and also some dogs, and then went forward in the direction of Leicester. Since then Mr. Hilton, Head Constable of Derby, laid the whole case before the Magistrates, and suggested that handbills should be printed, ordering all dogs to be confined for six weeks, but in the absence of the Mayor no order was made. Mr. Hilton also produced handbills from Leicester and Loughborough, in which the Magistrates had ordered dogs to be confined for six weeks, thus showing that hydrophobia was very prevalent in the Midland Counties. At Quorndon, a village between Loughborough and Leicester, Mr. Martin, builder, was attacked by the same dog, and was so seriously injured that it was reported at Loughborough on Monday that he was in a hopeless state of hydrophobia. Another man who was bitten also lies in a very critical state.



ICE ACCIDENT AT LEIGH.

The first accident of the winter is reported from Leigh in Lancashire. A number of factory hands on being released from work for their dinner hour, immediately went to a pond hard by and commenced to slide. The ice must have been very thin, for the fall of a youth seems to have broken in a large surface, and about a dozen persons were immersed in deep water. Amongst them was a girl named Isherwood, who lived in a cottage close to the pond, and whose mother and sister hearing the alarm, rushed to the side. The mother plunged in to the rescue, and was herself nearly drowned, but mother and daughter were pulled out by the bystanders. The other daughter went on the ice to help, but it gave way, and she was drowned, as well as another factory worker named Mary Killale.

Another accident happened on Sunday, when two young men, named Beard and Bossey, were drowned while sliding near Ashton-under-Lyne. At Penwortham Lodge, near Preston, James Osbaldeston, twelve years of age, ventured upon the ice in company with two other boys younger than himself. Osbaldeston was in advance of the two others, and had nearly reached a piece of land in the centre of the lodge, when the ice gave way, and he was precipitated into the water, a depth at that place of almost six feet. The two boys were greatly alarmed, and ran off without securing aid for the drowning lad. The matter was kept a secret until about an hour after the accident, when the lads admitted that they had left their companion up to his neck in the water of the lodge calling for his mother. The lodge was then dragged, and the dead body of the boy found.

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THE FIRST VOLUME of the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS will be complete with the last number in December, to be published on the 25th. A handsome title page with index will be issued on the 1st of January, and Special Covers for Binding may be had at the Office, price 2s. 6d.

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(Signeo) J. M. DRAGO, Treasurer of the National Government.
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The METROPOLITAN BOARD of WORKS GIVE NOTICE that they will be prepared to RECEIVE on THURSDAY, the 25th instant, sealed TENDERS for a LOAN of £2,500,000 (Sterling), on Security of Stock to be created under the provisions of an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament (32 and 33 Vic., c. 102).

The Stock is to bear Interest at the rate of £3 10s. per cent. per annum, payable quarterly at the Bank of England (dividend warrants being transmitted by post, if desired) in January, April, July, and October, on the same days on which the Government dividends are payable, and will be redeemed at par on the 6th of October, 1929, should the same not have been previously cancelled by purchase in the open market by the operation of the Redemption Fund referred to in the Act.

The books of the Stock will be kept at the Bank of England, where all assignments and transfers will be made. Holders of this Stock will be able to take out Stock Certificates, transferable to Bearer, with Coupons attached, on payment of the stamp duty.

The primary security for the Loan is the power of the Board to rate the whole rateable property within the Metropolis, as defined by the Metropolis Local Management Act, 1855, the annual value of which now amounts to £18,710,635.

The limit of the Board's borrowing power, under the above-mentioned Act, is £10,500,000 sterling, of which the sum of £3,766,200, in respect of the Thames Embankments and the New Street from Blackfriars-bridge to the Mansion House, is specially secured on the Coal and Wine Duties, and on the Lands and other properties connected with these undertakings.

Parliament has directed the establishment of a special fund for paying the dividends on and for redeeming the principal of the Metropolitan Consolidated Stock within a period of sixty years from the date of its creation; and the Lords of her Majesty's Treasury, under the before-mentioned Act of Parliament, have entire control over the Board's creation of Stock, and over the amount to be set aside each year out of the Board's Consolidated Rate to meet the payment of the dividends and to secure the repayment of the principal.

Tenders may be for the whole or any part (in even hundreds of Stock) of the said Loan, and must state what amount of money will be given for every £100 of the said Stock. Tenders at a price including fractions of a shilling other than sixpence will not be accepted. Tenders are to be delivered in, sealed, at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England, before Two o'clock on THURSDAY, the 25th November, and the amount of Stock subscribed for must be written on the outside of the Tender.

A deposit of Five per Cent. on the amount of Stock tendered for must be paid for at the same office at the time of delivery of the Tender, and parties tendering must be careful not to enclose the Deposit in the sealed Tender. Where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned: and in case of partial allotment, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the first instalment.

The dates at which the further payments on account of the said Loan will be required are as follows:—

On Wednesday, the 1st of December, 1869, so much of the amount tendered and accepted as when added to the Deposit paid will leave Eighty Pounds for each Hundred Pounds of Stock.
On Thursday, the 6th of January, 1870, £20 per cent.,
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but parties who desire it may, at the date of any instalment, pay up in full, and a discount at the rate of two per cent. per annum will be allowed. In case of default in the payment of any instalment at its proper date, the deposit and instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

Interest on the total nominal amount of the Stock (calculated from the 6th January, 1870) will be payable on the 6th of April following.

Before proceeding to open the Tenders, the Board will, with the approval of her Majesty's Treasury, fix the minimum price, below which no Tender will be accepted: and in the event of an amount of Loan in excess of £2,500,000 (Sterling) being offered above such minimum price, the Tenders at the lowest price accepted will be subject to a pro rata diminution.

Scrip Certificates, to Bearer, with Coupons attached, for the dividends payable on 6th April and 6th July, 1870, will be issued in exchange for the provisional receipts. The Stock will be inscribed in the Bank books on and after the 6th July, 1870.

No tender will be received unless upon a printed form, which must not be enclosed in an envelope.

Printed Forms will be furnished at this Office, and at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England.

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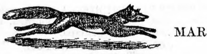

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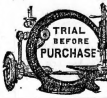

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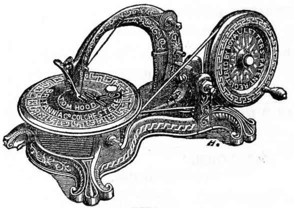
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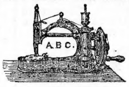

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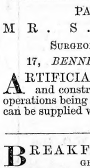

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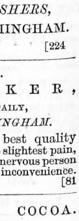

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Printed by the Proprietors, HATTON and Co., at their Printing Works, Market Hall Passage, and published at 108, New Street, Birmingham.—*December* 11, 1869.